

THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

Cloth...  
Suzy Menkes celebrates  
the infinite variety of  
fabric  
... yard  
A plea for the troubled  
Clydeside shipyard of  
Scott-Lithgow (below)



Trying...  
David Hands on the  
England rugby union  
squad preparing to face  
victorious Scotland  
... to win...  
More about our new  
national computer  
competition with many  
valuable prizes  
... the battle  
The battle of  
Luddesdown: Spectrum  
reports on a new civil war  
in Kent

'Donatello'  
work may  
make \$1m

A terracotta relief from the  
Donatello school will be auc-  
tioned by Sotheby's in New  
York in March. The bidding is  
expected to pass \$1m but the  
sculpture will fetch more if it is  
proved to be by Donatello  
himself Page 3

Druze leader's  
ultimatum

Mr Walid Jumblatt, Lebanon's  
Druze leader, insisted at the  
weekend that President  
Gemayel's Government must  
resign, even if this meant the  
destruction of Lebanon Page 6

Powell protest

Mr Enoch Powell is to challenge  
the Queen's right to make  
public statements other than on  
ministers' advice after his  
speech attacking her Christmas  
Day broadcast Page 2

Walesa meeting

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity  
leader, and Cardinal Glemp, the  
Polish Primate, held their first  
meeting since last April in  
Cidansk yesterday  
Help for farmers, Page 4

GEC launch

GEC is entering the computer  
software market, with the  
launch today of a company  
which will design high tech  
technical systems Page 13

Embassy fast

Six East Germans who have  
taken refuge in the US Embassy  
in East Berlin have started a  
hunger strike to back their  
demands for asylum in the  
United States Page 5

Carmichael ban

Mr Stokeley Carmichael, former  
Black Panther leader, was  
sent back to the United States  
after the Home Office refused  
him entry to Britain Page 2

Hungary prices

Hungary introduces across-the-  
board price increases today, to  
encourage production, cut sub-  
sidies and boost exports. Poor-  
er-paid workers will be badly hit  
Page 4

THE TIMES

We apologize for shortcomings  
in our financial, advertising and  
announcements services today,  
including the omission of the  
City prices page. These are due  
to a dispute involving clerical  
members of Sogat '82.

Leader page, 11

Letters: On Central America,  
from Mr J. Brooks; hospital  
funding, from Mr Stanley  
Rivlin; maintenance, from Mrs  
J. Todd and others  
Leading articles: Vienna talks;  
Powell and the Third World;  
Islam conference  
Features, pages 8-10  
Chancellor Kohl's visit to  
Israel; Matthew Paris: MP  
discovers the reality of life on  
the dole; giving radicalism a  
rest. Monday page: Inside  
romantic fiction; Spectrum;  
Face to face with Nastassia  
Kinski  
Obituary, page 12  
Johnny Weissmuller. The Earl  
of Warwick

Home News	2-4	Parliament	12
Overseas	4-6	Prem Bonds	20
Arts	12-14	Religion	12
Business	13-14	Science	12
Court	12	Sport	15-18
Crossword	10	TV & Radio	19
Diary	10	Theatres etc	19
Law Report	14	Weather	20
		Wills	12

# Four die, thousands stranded in Scottish blizzards

By David Cross

At least four people died and  
thousands were stranded in  
trains, buses, cars and hotels  
when many parts of Scotland  
experienced their worst bliz-  
zards for several years at the  
weekend.

The snowstorms, ac-  
companied by gales which made  
drifts up to 20ft deep, caught  
many travellers by surprise late  
on Saturday after a sunny but  
bitterly cold start to the  
weekend.

Three of those who died were  
young children, two of them  
brothers, who died of exposure  
in the Cairngorms as they  
crawled through 100 mph  
blizzards for help, was raised by  
a fourth member of the group.  
Mr Derek Kilpatrick, who  
managed to reach the Glenmore  
Lodge outdoor activities centre.

Although he was incoherent  
and unable to stand, he told  
rescuers how he had seen his  
companions die after they had

made a fatal navigational error.  
They died barely a mile from  
the safety of a road which they  
had been trying to find.

Mr Fred Harper, warden at  
the lodge, said that the group  
had left the Cairngorm car park  
at 10 pm on Friday night  
heading for a mountain hut a  
mile and a half away. But failing  
to find the hut in worsening  
weather they bivouacked for the  
night in a tent which they were  
carrying.

At first light they decided to  
return to the car park "in  
favour of the weather, probably as  
bad as I have seen in 14 years",  
Mr Harper said. "But on the way,  
the party became progress-  
ively exhausted and one by one  
they collapsed and died."

The dead students were  
named as Graham and Keith  
Bell, aged 21 and 19, both of  
Overhaven Estate, Limekilns,  
Fife, and Kieran Connor, of  
Blairhill Road, Rutherglen,  
Strathclyde.

Two of the bodies were found  
by rescue teams close together  
yesterday, with the third some  
distance away. Mr Harper said  
that their attempt to return to  
the road had taken place in zero  
visibility. "This meant they  
were literally crawling some of  
the way."

Mr Kilpatrick was last night

described as "much affected" by  
his experience, but recovering  
physically.

Others caught up in the storm  
said that the wind was so strong  
at times that people getting out  
of their cars had found it  
difficult to breathe. One Auto-  
mobile Association patrol man  
reported that he had been  
unable to open his van door for  
a while.

Last night about 50,000  
homes in the north of Scotland  
were still without electricity and  
200 people at the Lecht ski  
resort near Braemar were  
spending a second night cut off  
from the outside world.

At one point four trains were  
marooned in snowdrifts and the  
passengers and crew of two of  
them spent the night waiting for  
helicopters to fly them to safety.

On the Wick to Inverness line  
in Caithness, 27 people, includ-  
ing the crew, were carried back  
to Wick after abandoning their  
train in a snowdrift, and at  
Achnashen 22 passengers on  
their way from Inverness across  
the Highlands to the Kyle of  
Lochalsh were taken by helicop-  
ter to their homes along the line  
after being stranded for more  
than 12 hours.

The three-man crew of a  
relief train which tried to reach  
Continued on page 2, col 5

## Left's narrow win in miners' ballot

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The left has won the electoral  
battle for the leadership of the  
National Union of Minework-  
ers, but with such a small  
majority that pressure for an  
end to the industrial action in  
the coal industry is certain to  
increase.

Mr Peter Heathfield, aged 54,  
leader of the Derbyshire miners,  
will tomorrow be officially  
named as the new general  
secretary of the union in  
succession to Mr Lawrence  
Daly, who is retiring early  
through ill-health.

Mr Heathfield beat off a  
strong challenge from Mr John  
Walsh, aged 47, a relatively  
little-known moderate area  
agent in the North Yorkshire  
coalfield, who campaigned on a  
ticket of "negotiation, not  
confrontation" and called for a  
ballot on the nationwide over-  
time ban, which enters its  
twelfth week today.

The margin of success for Mr  
Heathfield is understood to be  
only a few percentage points,  
and perhaps fewer than 5,000  
votes. That result is expected to  
provoke a crisis at the top in the  
union executive, which has  
until now maintained a front of  
unanimity on the industrial  
action mounted against pit  
closures and the National Coal  
Board's "first and final" 5.2 per  
cent pay offer.

Mr Heathfield, who was not  
only the choice of the organized  
left within the union but also  
nominated by most other  
coalfields, polled unexpectedly  
well in traditionally moderate  
areas such as the Midlands,  
Durham and Leicestershire and  
paradoxically fared badly in his  
own coalfield and in Yorkshire.

which seems "on the turn"  
against militancy.

Unofficial but reliable returns  
from the coalfields give the  
militant standard-bearer a big  
majority in the hard-line hear-  
lands of Scotland, South Wales  
and Kent. However, he carried  
little more than half the  
Yorkshire vote and ran third in  
Lancashire behind Mr Les  
Kelly, the rank and file candi-  
date from Point of Ayr colliery,  
in North Wales.

Mr Kelly's late intervention  
in the contest appears to have  
had little effect. He took only  
about 5 per cent of the poll,  
with the anti-militant vote  
coalescing around Mr Walsh's  
unexpectedly powerful chal-  
lenge to the left.

Mr Walsh's own showing  
puts him strongly in the running  
to succeed Mr Owen Briscoe,  
secretary of the Yorkshire  
pitmen, when he retires in three  
years' time.

That may be the biggest  
single long-term outcome of the  
pithead vote which confirmed  
the NUM as the democratic  
union that Mr Tom King,  
Secretary of State for Employ-  
ment, would like to serve as a  
model to others through the  
provisions of his trades union  
Bill, that will make secret  
ballots compulsory for choosing  
senior-level trade union office.

Moderates, who command  
half of the 24 seats on the  
miner's executive, are expected  
to take sufficient encourage-  
ment from the general secre-  
taryship election to move openly  
for a pithead ballot on the £4.90  
to £6.80 a week offer, leaving to  
one side the issue of pit  
closures.

## Cricket chiefs decide today in Boycott battle

Hostilities in the battle of  
Yorkshire County Cricket Club  
will resume today when mem-  
bers of the 29-strong general  
committee and seven-man crick-  
et sub-committee will indicate  
their reaction to the no-con-  
fidence votes passed against  
them at Saturday's special  
general meeting.

The general meeting was a  
complete success for Geoffrey  
Boycott's supporters, who won  
a third motion calling on the  
club to offer the controversial  
batsman a playing contract for  
1984, but some general com-  
mittee members, including the  
cricket chairman, Mr Ronnie

Burnet, hope to continue the  
fight.  
"Yorkshire will never be  
reunited until Boycott has  
gone," Mr Burnet said. He  
added that he feared other  
players would leave because of  
Saturday's voting.

Some anti-Boycott "hawks"  
are said to be considering  
seeking legal advice on whether  
Saturday's decisions can be  
ignored. Mr Burnet said the no-  
confidence votes were "only  
advisory", but added: "We may  
resign and stand for re-election  
on the Boycott issue."

Full report, page 17

## President loses his senior law officer

From Nicholas Ashford  
Washington

A major change among  
President Reagan's senior  
White House staff is expected to  
be prompted by the decision of  
Mr William French Smith to  
resign as Attorney-General. His  
letter of resignation was pre-  
sented to the President on  
Friday and is expected to be  
made public today.

According to a senior Ad-  
ministration official, quoted by  
United Press International, Mr  
Smith is likely to be succeeded  
as Attorney-General by Mr  
Edwin Meese, counselor to the  
President. This is a job Mr  
Meese, himself a lawyer, has  
long aspired to.

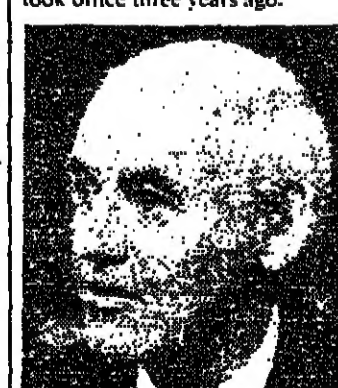
If Mr Meese is appointed  
Attorney-General it will remove  
from the White House the most  
conservative of President Reagan's  
triumvirate of top ad-  
visers just as he is preparing to  
announce his decision to seek  
re-election.

In so doing, it will enhance  
the influence of Mr James  
Baker, the White House Chief  
of Staff, and Mr Michael  
Deaver, the Deputy White  
House Chief of Staff, two  
leading "moderates" in the  
Administration.

Mr Smith, aged 66, a long-  
time personal friend of the  
President, had let it be known  
for some months that he wanted  
to return to his private legal  
practice in California.

Although there have been  
some controversies surrounding  
his policies and his personal  
life, there is no suggestion that  
Mr Smith is resigning under  
pressure. "He thought it was  
time to leave," a White House  
official commented.

Mr Smith will be the sixth  
member of Mr Reagan's Cab-  
inet to have resigned since he  
took office three years ago.



Mr Smith: Not going  
under pressure



Professor Ian Craft with the Maaye triplets. Photograph: Suresh Karadia

## First triplets for British team

# Test-tube trio 'come out crying'

By John Witherow

Britain's first test-tube  
triplets, a girl and two boys  
who are believed to be identical,  
have been born to a couple who  
had tried for 10 years to have a  
child.

The babies, weighing  
between 5lb 10oz and 4lb 5oz,  
were delivered at one minute  
intervals by caesarean section  
early on Saturday at the private  
Portland Hospital for Women  
and Children, in London.

Professor Ian Craft, director  
of gynaecology at the Cromwell  
Hospital and the man respon-  
sible for the first test-tube  
twins born in Britain, said the  
babies "came out crying". He  
added: "There was no concern  
about respiratory distress and  
their weights are good for  
triplets. There is nothing wrong  
with them."

The mother, Mrs Anne  
Maaye, aged 35, was conscious  
during the operation. Although  
she had known for some time  
that she was carrying triplets,  
she was unaware of their sex  
and that the two boys are likely  
to be identical.

Mrs Maaye said she felt  
"fantastic". Her husband Mr  
Adnan Maaye, a Middle  
Eastern businessman living in  
London, who made a video  
recording of the birth, added  
that they hope to have more  
children "if God wants us to".  
They have not yet decided on  
names for the babies.

Mrs Maaye, who intends to  
breast feed the children, is  
unusual in that she was treated  
on a day care basis. The mother  
of the world's first test-tube  
triplets, delivered in Australia

last year, spent most of her  
pregnancy in hospital under  
observation.

Mrs Maaye was admitted to  
the Portland Hospital only 12  
days ago, after experiencing the  
usual problems of multiple  
pregnancy, such as swollen  
ankles. Professor Craft was  
concerned about the small size  
of one of the boys and had  
intended to delay the caesarean  
section for another week, but  
Mrs Maaye ruptured mem-  
branes and went into early  
labour on Saturday.

It was Mrs Maaye's third  
attempt at *in vitro* fertilization.  
She had tried first at the Bourn  
Hall clinic of Dr Robert  
Edwards and Mr Patrick  
Stephens, the medical pioneers  
who made possible the birth in  
Continued on back page, col 2

## Signs of headway in Hongkong talks

From David Bonavia, Peking

British officials in Peking and  
Hongkong are understood to be  
pleased with the latest develop-  
ments in the Anglo-Chinese  
talks on the future of Hong-  
kong.

The British embassy here  
never comments on the content  
of the talks, which resume this  
Wednesday and have been in  
progress for more than a year.  
However, well-informed  
sources say that a good under-  
standing is being reached with  
the Chinese, by contrast with  
the hostile tone of Chinese press  
commentaries last autumn.

The sources say the Chinese  
side has recently shown a much  
more detailed appreciation of  
the sensitivities of the Hong-  
kong question - sensitivities  
which brought a financial crisis  
and devaluation of the Hong-  
kong dollar last September.

The agreement thought to be  
already in draft form will  
guarantee Hongkong 50 years of  
autonomy as a capitalist-run  
"special administrative region"

under the overall sovereignty of  
the People's Republic of Chi-  
na. It is understood that this  
was the result of last Decem-  
ber's negotiating session, at  
which British diplomats agreed  
in principle to revoke the  
uneasy terms of 1842 and 1860, which  
ceded Hongkong island and the  
Kowloon Peninsula to Britain  
"in perpetuity".

Some third-country diplo-  
mats here calling the British  
concession weak-kneed, but in  
fact it was inevitable, and  
refusal to repudiate the two  
treaties would have led to  
lengthy and bitter tussles with  
the Chinese. Parliament, of  
course, will have to ratify the  
cancellation of the treaties.

As for the larger and eco-  
nomically vital New Territories,  
the 99-year British lease on  
them expires in 1997, which the  
Chinese regard as the reversion  
date for the entire colony.  
It is not known when the

Continued on back page, col 4

## Morocco riot toll may be over 100

By Our Foreign Staff

Three days of rioting in  
towns along Morocco's Medi-  
terranean coast have left at least  
100 dead, according to reports  
reaching Ceuta and Melilla, the  
two Spanish enclaves on the  
North African coast.

The unrest has been put  
down by the Army and police  
after first flaring seriously on  
Thursday in Nador and later  
spreading to the coastal resort  
of Al Hoceima and to Tetuan,  
about 25 miles south of Ceuta.  
The death toll was impossible to  
confirm officially in Rabat,  
where authorities maintained  
total silence.

According to Spanish press  
and radio reports, the worst  
trouble occurred in Tetuan,  
where 60 demonstrators were  
said to have lost their lives, and  
in the port of Nador, where  
estimates of dead ranged from  
25 to 65. At Al Hoceima, at  
least 15 were reported killed.

Late yesterday, Nador and  
Tetuan were reported tense but  
quiet, almost under a state of  
siege, with troops and armoured  
cars patrolling the main streets.

Officials prevented two  
foreign correspondents from  
visiting the area. A French  
journalist was put on a plane to  
Paris and an American was sent  
back to Casablanca. Some  
Spanish journalists, stationed at  
the coast, were allowed in.

From diplomatic sources and  
returning travellers, it is clear  
the disturbances have been  
serious. In Nador, for example,  
police had to summon a  
military unit from Fez. Ambu-  
lances raced through the streets  
to pick up dead and wounded.  
Travellers speak of a curfew.

Extensive damage was re-  
ported in the commercial centre  
of Tetuan and, in the slum  
quarters of the town, demon-  
strations continued, with gunfire  
heard.

The silence of the Moroccan  
press and radio, itself an  
indication of the Government's  
concern, has been broken only  
by the socialist Arab daily *Al-  
Itihad Al-Ishraqi*, which  
called for official explanations  
to reassure the people.

Diplomats said that, even in  
parts of the country not affected  
by the riots, many people had  
been taken in for questioning,  
suggesting the authorities  
suspected a coordinating hand  
behind the unrest - either leftist  
or Muslim fundamentalist, or  
both.

First signs of the troubles  
came with a series of strikes and  
demonstrations by secondary  
school pupils, protesting at  
rising prices and rumours -  
denied by the Government - of  
impending increases in exami-  
nation charges.

Much may turn on whether  
rumours in north Moroccan  
towns of a general strike for  
today prove well-founded. The  
crucial place will, however, be  
Casablanca, the industrial and  
business capital on the Atlantic  
coast, scene of the 1981  
troubles.

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AND  
PAN AM**

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thing in common.  
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# Powell to persist with challenge to Queen's right to free speech

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Enoch Powell is to renew his criticism of the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast and to challenge the Sovereign's right to make public statements other than on the advice of ministers. He is to contribute an article to *The Times*.

Mr Powell said in Leicester on Friday that recent speeches, placed in the Queen's mouth by ministers, suggested that she had the interests of other countries more at heart than those of her own people; and that even in the United Kingdom she was more concerned with the prejudices of a "vociferous minority of new-comers" than for the mass of her subjects.

The *Times* observed in a leading article that Mr Powell had been "disingenuous" in disclaiming any intention of criticizing the Sovereign personally, since the Queen's Christmas broadcast, which he evidently had in mind, was made "without the constitutional backing of advice from any Ministers".

That is the point which Mr

Powell regards as central and to which he is expected to return. He began his Leicester speech by asserting the constitutional principle that all public pronouncements by the Sovereign are "covered by the advice of ministers", even when the political content may appear minimal.

His assertion is in conflict with statements from both Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street, that the Christmas broadcast is not written with ministers' advice.

Mr Powell has been criticized in some quarters for the narrowness of his view of the Queen's responsibilities. He said there ought to be "unique and exclusive sympathy" between the Crown and the people of the United Kingdom. Buckingham Palace responded by saying that the Queen was head of state of 17 countries. "The Queen has all her people at heart, irrespective of race, creed or colour."

What Mr Powell perceives as a potential danger to the Queen's position as British

Sovereign, inherent in the "divisibility" of the Crown among 17 nations and in her position as head of the Commonwealth, is something with which he has been concerned for more than thirty years.

In March 1953, when Parliament was legislating for the Queen to be called "head of the Commonwealth", Mr Powell objected that the change, and the removal of the word British, was an evil.

Mr Powell was supported yesterday by Mr John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton, north, who said that the Queen has been sadly misled by her advisers.

But Sir Ian Gilmour, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham, said: "What the Queen says about the Commonwealth is not something that has to be dictated to her."

What she said in her Christmas message was right. I am only surprised Mr Powell did not end up by saying he thought the whole thing was a plot by the CIA.

## The Christmas message of unity

The following is the text of an extract from the Queen's Christmas message:

Leaders and specialists can meet and discuss political and technical problems: news travels faster and there is more of it; new opportunities for world trade and commerce have been opened up by this communication revolution; perhaps more important, modern technology has touched most aspects of life throughout the world.

We saw this in dramatic form in India. Twenty-two years ago I had seen something of the problems facing this country, but since then the population has grown from 440 million to over 700 million.

Yet India has managed to become one of the ten or so leading industrial nations in the world and has become self-sufficient in food.

But in spite of all the progress that has been made the greatest problem in the world today remains the gap between rich and poor countries and we shall not begin to close this gap until we hear less about nationalisms and more about inter-dependence.

One of the main aims of the Commonwealth is to make an effective contribution towards reducing the economic balance between nations.

What we want to see is still more modern technology being used by

poor countries to provide employment and to produce primary products and components, which will be bought in turn by the richer countries at competitive prices.

I have therefore been heartened by the real progress that is being made in the Commonwealth technical cooperation fund and various exchange schemes.

Britain and other richer Commonwealth countries run aid schemes and these are very important, but the word for the Commonwealth is cooperation.

There is a flow of experts in all directions, with Canadians helping in the Caribbean, Indians in Africa, New Zealanders in India, Australians in Papua New Guinea, British in Kenya, the list is endless.

The web of contacts provided by the Commonwealth is an intricate pattern based on self help and cooperation.

Yet in spite of these advances the age-old problems of human communities are still with us. We do not like to hear and we can still talk in

ridges and listen without trying to comprehend.

Perhaps even more serious is the risk that this mastery of technology may blind us to the more fundamental needs of people. Electronics cannot create comradeship; computers cannot generate compassion; satellites cannot transmit tolerance.

And no amount of technology could engineer the spirit of the Commonwealth that we so evident in Delhi or the frank, friendly and understanding communication that such a spirit makes possible.

I hope that Christmas will remind us all that it is not how we communicate but what we communicate with each other that really matters.

We in the Commonwealth are fortunate enough to belong to a worldwide comradeship. Let us make the most of it let us all resolve to communicate as friends in tolerance and understanding.

Only men can make the message of the angels come true. "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

I always look forward to being able to talk to everyone at Christmas time, and at the end of another year I again send you all my warmest greetings.



'It's a boycott. I refuse to convert it'

## Ex-Black Panther sent back

Mr Stokely Carmichael, former Black Panther leader, was sent back to the United States last night. As he was escorted to the aircraft at Heathrow airport, London, by Special Branch men and immigration officers he smiled and called out: "Good luck."

Mr Carmichael, who last year called for street riots to overthrow the British Government, was refused entry at the weekend when he arrived for the start of a 10-day speaking tour.

The Home Office said: "The Home Secretary has decided that the presence in the United Kingdom of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) would not be conducive of the public good."

Mr Carmichael, who was born in Trinidad, was invited to make the visit as the guest of the Hackney Black People's Association in London. It was intended to be a follow up to his visit last September.

The association described the ban as absolutely outrageous. "Mr Carmichael was told on his last visit that he would be all right as long as he had an American passport. We ensured he had and this happened."

Carmichael's tour was also to have included Liverpool, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Manchester and Leicester. He had planned to visit relatives while in Britain.

In 1967 speeches he made during a visit to this Britain enraged MPs. Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary, ordered a police investigation into the tour. Mr Carmichael was told as he left at the end of the tour that if he attempted to return he would be turned away.

His visit last year, however, was allowed to take place despite much speculation.

## TUC's self-criticism project splits union

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders will today give the go-ahead for the most critical, soul-searching exercise in the recent history of the TUC, and this latest bout of self-criticism is already reviving internal political divisions.

The TUC's so-called "inner cabinet", its finance and general purposes committee, is to send out to more than 100 affiliated unions the draft text of a *Strategy for the Future* based on a radical reappraisal of the unions' role in society.

As disclosed in *The Times* four days ago, the unions are being urged to reach historic "workable compromises" with the Government and other sections of society. There is also to be new effort to win back public confidence in the unions.

But the 6,000-word document being considered today has renewed the infighting that split the 1983 Trades Union Congress. Mr Moss Evans, general secretary of the 1.5m member Transport and General Workers' Union, insisted last night that there could be no "thaw" in relations with the Cabinet unless substantial concessions to the unions were forthcoming.

"There is no question of a thaw. As a matter of fact the situation is reversed if anything. The Government have not conceded one iota from the way Tebbit was going. In my opinion there has been no thaw at all on the part of the Government - so there cannot be a thaw on the part of the TUC," Mr Evans argued.

His view was directly contradicted by Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the largest Civil Service union, the Civil and Public Services Association, who admitted that there were still "pretty sharp divisions about which way we are going" but claimed that the policy document laid the ground for a new relationship with the Government.

"It is going to be a long haul to get the trade union movement restoring the confidence of ordinary members."

*Strategy for the Future* was ordered by last year's Congress as an objective appraisal of TUC policies and a step towards a statement of the principle of modern trade unionism which make membership more attractive to the unorganized - particularly young people.

The document concedes that there is a gap between the leaders and the led, and calls for measures to build greater membership involvement in union affairs.

The National Union of Journalists has "reaffirmed its right to refuse to comply" with the Government's Employment Acts at an emergency conference to determine policy in relation to labour law.

Delegates to a special union meeting in London at the weekend voted to "deplore and resist any attempt by this or any other government to use the law as a means to prevent trade unions carrying out their basic function."

A key policy statement laid down a commitment to "basic trade union rights" - the right to represent and bargain for all workers.

The right to organize journalists in chapels and branches and "where the members wish it" to promote and maintain post-entry closed shops.

The right to initiate and support industrial action by or on behalf of members.

The right peacefully to picket at all premises relevant to the industrial interests of members.

The right to initiate and support action in defence of other trade unions or in defence of trade union principles.

Some of these "rights" run contrary to the Government labour laws, although the conference insisted that "the NUJ is a law-abiding union with a strong commitment to a democratic society."

## Two polls tip Benn for victory

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Wedgwood Benn is poised to win the Chesterfield by-election, according to two opinion polls.

A telephone survey by Audience Selection Poll on Friday and published in yesterday's *News of the World* shows Mr Benn with 46 per cent of the vote, the Conservative candidate with 31 and the SDP-Liberal Alliance with 22.

This prediction is backed by a poll of 1,000 people in Chesterfield conducted on Thursday and Friday for the *Daily Telegraph* by Gallup Poll. This showed Mr Benn with 46.3 per cent, the Tories with 29.5 and the Alliance with 24.

In an attempt to prevent Mr Benn's election, the television comedy actor Bill Maynard announced yesterday that he would stand as an independent.

Mr Maynard, a life-long Labour supporter, opposed Mr Benn's policies and was angered by the selection meeting when, he says, "perfectly decent local nominees" were pushed aside.

General election: E. Varley (Lab) 23,881; N. Gorman (Con) 11,111; J. E. Payne (Lib) 4,796; J. E. Payne (SDP) 1,111.

## Clergyman quits over links with Catholics

From Richard Ford Belfast

A Presbyterian minister in Northern Ireland is to leave his church within a few months after opposition by church elders to his policy of closer contacts with Roman Catholics.

Discontent at the First Presbyterian Church in Limavady, Londonderry, towards the Rev David Armstrong, aged 35, grew after he exchanged Christmas greetings in the Roman Catholic church on Christmas Day.

It culminated in a close vote by the elders against his policy towards Roman Catholics who worship at Christ the King church across the road.

The elders do not have the power to dismiss Mr Armstrong, a father of four who has been at the church for two and a half years, but it has been made clear that he should look for another congregation.

When the Roman Catholic church was bombed, Mr Armstrong, who according to friends is a firm believer in being a peace-maker in the province, went over and offered his sympathy on behalf of his congregation.

He attended the reopening of the Roman Catholic church on December 25, a new curate, Father Kevin Mullan, visited the Presbyterian church wishing the minister and worshippers a happy Christmas.

Later that day Mr Armstrong reciprocated the gesture, and was loudly applauded by the congregation when he offered them his greetings and wishes for a peaceful new year.

While none of the Roman Catholic clergy in the predominantly Protestant town will discuss the matter, the Rev William McDowell of the local Free Presbyterian church said many people had been upset by the minister allowing a Roman Catholic into the church.

"I warned his congregation when he arrived what type of a person he was. He is an ecumenist and inviting the Roman Catholic priest into the church was obviously an ecumenical exercise to which we are totally opposed. People do not want him, they want him to leave."

**Fire at mansion**  
Stutton Hall, an eighteenth century mansion at Holbrook near Ipswich, was destroyed by fire yesterday. Damage is estimated at £200,000.

## Press harassment curbs predicted

By Kenneth Gossling

Harassment by the press has led to many Press Council complaints, and seems certain to do so in the future, Sir Patrick Neill, QC, the council's chairman until last September, says in a report for 1980-81.

He refers to press treatment of people concerned with the Yorkshire Ripper case, including Peter Sutcliffe's wife. Sir Patrick writes: "I do not myself believe that either public opinion or Parliament will indefinitely allow such scandals to be repeated and defenceless individuals to be thus persecuted without anything being done to remedy this situation."

"personal view" foreword that, despite the wish to inform the public and commercial pressures to get "scoops", editors and journalists should use their intelligence and humanity to recognize that it was wrong to pursue stricken individuals.

"There is a very clear case here for the press to put its own house in order," he writes in the report published today.

It was not only wrong, but also sometimes almost indecent, to pursue stricken individuals with questions they had already refused to answer.

Sir Patrick emphasizes: "This is not to advocate that the press should cease to be vigilant to expose crime, malpractice and incompetence. It is an exhortation to temper zeal with discrimination and sensitivity."

He goes on: "The cases which cause the most anxiety are those where the target of persistent inquiries is a person in a vulnerable position who has no organization to protect him or her."

"Repeated badgering is particularly abhorrent where the victim is innocent of guilt and has become an object of notoriety through some chance circumstance. But there may be cause for concern also where the victim holds a public position."

Sir Patrick cites the Sutcliffe case, naming Sutcliffe's wife and Mrs Doreen Hill, mother of the Ripper's last victim, as principal "targets" for press attention.

He reveals that the council had suggested to the Home Secretary at the time, Mr William Whitelaw, now Lord Whitelaw, that he should consider encouraging chief constables to offer help in relieving such pressure and "guiding the press" in such circumstances.

The Press and the People (Press Council, 1 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE, £4.50).

**Top Mensa title won by solicitor for second time**  
A London solicitor, Mr Lance Howard, aged 47, has won the title of Brain of Mensa 1984. Mr Howard, of Lansdowne Road, Muswell Hill, the President of the Mastermind Club, beat three other finalists in Gloucester selected from hundreds of entrants.

It was his second victory in the competition. He won it last in 1981 but was prohibited for two years following his victory on Saturday.

He collected a replica of a model of the brain for his prize. Other finalists in order were: Mr Anthony Perkin, aged 71, an Open University tutor; Nether Street, London N12; Rodney Smith, aged 39, a business studies lecturer, from Lowestoft, near Warrington; and Mr Robert Ley, aged 51, a mature student, of Ferry Hill, Co Durham.

The organization, derives its name from the Latin for "mind". Mensa was founded by Dr Lance Weare, in 1946 to "gather together people who shared similar views and understandings". Since then it has grown internationally and has 80,000 members worldwide. All have an IQ of at least 148.

**Phone directory contract lost by Post Office**  
By Our Economics Correspondent

The Post Office has lost the lucrative contract from British Telecom to deliver telephone directories in England, which will go to private companies, it emerged yesterday.

That could cost the Post Office £10m to £20m, but it will also affect postmen who have been paid extra for delivering directories.

The contracts were put out to tender after the separation of British Telecom and the Post Office to prepare for privatization.

The Post Office, however, secured the less valuable contracts for the largely rural areas of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Post Office is thought to have previously received 25p per directory and postmen 10p.

**Overseas selling prices**  
Austria 50s; Belgium 100s; Canada 100s; Denmark 100s; France 100s; Germany 100s; Greece 100s; Hong Kong 100s; India 100s; Italy 100s; Japan 100s; Korea 100s; Malaysia 100s; Mexico 100s; Netherlands 100s; New Zealand 100s; Norway 100s; Pakistan 100s; Portugal 100s; Singapore 100s; South Africa 100s; Spain 100s; Sweden 100s; Switzerland 100s; Taiwan 100s; Thailand 100s; Turkey 100s; USA 100s; Yugoslavia 100s.

## Murdered wife fought in vain to save children

The murdered wife of a Chinese restaurateur had fought for her life and police officers leading the hunt for their killers said yesterday.

Mr Hon Chiu Tang, aged 34, found the bodies of his wife, Mrs Mai Tai Lam Tang, aged 36, and children, Monica, aged 3, and Eric, aged eight months, when he came home on Saturday morning after working all night at a Soho restaurant.

Mrs Tang and one of her children were stabbed to death. Det Supt David Gearson said. He would not say how the other child was killed.

The family could have invited their killer into the home, an end-of-terrace house in Holles Close, Hampton, Twickenham, south-west London, but the police have not ruled out a gangland murder.

There was no sign that the attackers forced their way in, but the house was in disarray, Mr Gearson said. "There is some evidence that there was quite a struggle."

It was impossible to say if anything was stolen until Mr Tang returned home.

Inquiries are hampered because few witnesses speak English and interviews must be conducted through Chinese interpreters. The police have appealed for help from experts in the Chinese community.

Mr Tang has lived in London for about 16 years and has worked at the restaurant for six years.

Twickenham, south-west London, but the police have not ruled out a gangland murder.

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## Sorting fact and rhetoric in rates battle

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Borough Council and chairman of the Association of London Authorities, has accused Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, of "robbing London of money". If she is right, what has he done with it?

Several answers will be given today when MPs debate the Government's contribution towards local council spending for the coming year. Several more will be offered when the Commons Standing Committee on the Rates Bill starts work on Thursday.

Mrs Hodge is not a disinterested observer. Her council is near the top of the Government's list of candidates for rate-capping and one of its favourite examples of the way in which Labour councils supposedly squander ratepayers' money on worthless projects.

Her association was formed last year by Labour councils disenchanted with the Conservative-dominated London Boroughs' Association. It would be surprising if she did not accuse Mr Jenkin of theft and equally surprising if he failed to throw the accusation back at her.

Local government finance is so complicated that it is hard for non-experts to disentangle facts from political rhetoric. But it is possible to find facts among the political arguments. One is that the Government is steadily cutting the amount of local government spending which it finances with state grants.

Councils that want to avoid reducing services must get a progressively larger proportion of their spending from their ratepayers. But that central fact of modern local government finance applies equally to all. It

does not explain whether London has been robbed.

Ministers allocate grants to councils on the basis of what they think the councils need to spend to give adequate services and what they think they should be allowed to spend in the light of their past performance.

Labour councillors in London claim that the special needs of the capital are underestimated by ministers. They quote the extra cost of dumping London's rubbish more than 50 miles from household dustbins whereas other councils can dump a few miles away.

The calculation of what councils need to spend on the basis of past performance has been arranged to give less to those that have increased spending more in recent years. Other adjustments will give some councils with very much lower

budgets than those of London boroughs.

Many of those that have benefited from these adjustments are led by Conservatives, while many of those to be punished are controlled by Labour. London will also suffer this year from the system of "holdback" designed by ministers to discourage high spending. It means that as councils push spending above government targets, the amount of state grant to which they are entitled is cut. The greater the extra spending, the more severe the cut.

Hackney Borough Council, which covers an area of London at the top of the Government's index of social deprivation, is to challenge the policy in court on the ground that the penalties imposed on it are so severe that it cannot discharge its statutory duties. The judgment in that case will help to show whether Mrs Hodge is right.

It has been alleged by *The Observer* that Mr Mark Thatcher was promoting the business interests of Cementation International when he visited the Gulf in 1981.

He had two meetings with his mother, who at that time was pressing for the company to be given a £300m contract to build a new university.

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## Sales of 'grill steak' climb but growth slows in frozen food market

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sales of "grill steaks" rose 60 per cent last year, to make them the fastest growing type of frozen food, sales of which increased by 6.5 per cent.

"Grill steaks" are made from different flaked parts of animals which are reformed into a typical steak shape, but sell at a much lower price.

The volume of frozen food sales rose last year, despite increased popularity of fresh foods and chilled lines, particularly meat and fish, which offer many of the qualities of fresh foods and a longer shelf-life.

"Grill steaks" claimed to be a cut above minced hamburgers in flavour, were almost unknown two years ago, but their sales were worth £40m last year. A survey of the frozen food market by Ross Foods, part of the Imperial Group, which was published yesterday, showed that the second biggest growth in sales volumes was of frozen meat pies, up 24 per cent. Pizza sales rose 9 per cent.

With fresh meat now so expensive people are turning more to such products, especially during the week. Mr Nigel Worne, Ross's retail marketing manager, said.

About £70m worth of frozen meat pies are now bought annually. Burgers account for another £115m.

Of the four main categories of frozen food, meat showed the biggest rise, at 10 per cent. Vegetables rose 6 per cent, fish only 1 per cent and desserts 9 per cent.

Desserts account for about 10 per cent of the £1,200m frozen food market, and the other

categories about 30 per cent each in volume.

Fish sales growth eased mainly because of the competition from new meat products like the "grill steaks". But Ross believes consumer taste is moving towards more variety in fish and that tastier ways of

### £1m real ice cream drive

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Milk Marketing Board is to spend £1m this year to promote "real" ice cream, made from dairy ingredients and containing fresh double cream.

It has adopted a CAMRIC trade mark, the initials standing for the Campaign for Real Ice Cream, and it clearly hopes it will be as enthusiastically received as the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), which persuaded breweries to restore traditional draught beer to public houses.

Most ice cream sold in Britain contains vegetable or animal fats, cereals, starch and emulsifiers. The European Commission dislikes the use of the word cream to describe something which contains no such thing, and has previously threatened legislation to prevent it.

In the past few years several farm cooperatives have had considerable success selling unadulterated frozen cream, and the board sees it as a means of reducing the dairy surplus.

presenting fish will produce more sales.

The overall growth in the frozen food market was nevertheless the least for three years. In 1981 and 1982 sales increased by at least 16 per cent.

The blame is laid mostly on the weather. A mild winter early last year meant a profusion of fresh vegetables at keen prices, but later the soggy summer hit pea crops particularly and housewives turned back to the frozen variety.

In the frozen food market the retail battle is still raging between own-label ranges, typically of the big multiple grocery companies like J Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer, and the three leading brand companies of Birds Eye (part of Unilever), Ross and Findus (part of Nestlé).

The own-labels grew more than 2 per cent, to nearly a 31 per cent market share last year, says the survey. Ross alone of the three brand leaders showed a growth in market share, up 10 per cent to 9.1 per cent, while the other two both slipped, particularly Findus, which is following a marketing policy of moving rather more out of mass-market lines into specialities.

Birds Eye has 18.5 per cent market share and Findus 3 per cent, the survey says.

Ross, which has spent more than £10m over the past five years upgrading its production, plans to announce shortly another big investment. It will safeguard jobs rather than create new ones. Mr John Houlston, general manager of sales and marketing at Ross, says.



Bicycle beat: Five of the force of Scottish county policeman being put back on two wheels to improve local policing. Bicycles, phased out by Lothian

and Borders police by 1968, are being reintroduced because of people complaining "that all they see of their local bobbies is them flashing through the village at 30mph in panda cars."

Police constable John Richardson (left) has not ridden a bicycle for more than 25 years. Pedalling with him (left to right) are PCs

Stewart Watt, Jimmy Ingram, Alan Sinclair and Bill Stewart. Officers selected will travel up to 14 miles a day (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

## Discussion of sex by young 'still taboo'

Although spontaneous sex has become acceptable for the young, frank discussion of the subject and contraception has not, according to Ms Suzie Hayman, of the Brook Advisory Centre.

Writing in *Report*, journal of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, Ms Hayman said that the vast majority of teenagers who visit family planning clinics have had, therefore, sexual experience.

She said that there were three main reasons why teenagers went to clinics:

A girl thinks she may be pregnant, because a friend or colleague has become pregnant, or a sexual relationship has become steady and the couple have discussed the risks they run.

Ms Hayman, information officer for Brook Advisory Centres for the past eight years until her recent retirement, said that contraceptive advice had reduced the pregnancy rate of girls in England and Wales.

There has also been a significant change in the ratio of rushed marriages to abortions.

In 1970, 53 per cent of teenage conceptions in England were legitimized, and 15.3 per cent ended in abortion.

In 1979, 26 per cent were legitimized and 40 per cent aborted.

Ms Hayman, criticizes society for seeing sex problems as girls' responsibility.

Society ignores the boys' role and they, in turn, ignore sexual responsibility. Their lack of opportunity to learn and discuss the facts finds an outlet in scorn derived from fear.

As for male contraception, "everyone knows only sissies or chickens use them because it's like taking a bath with your wellies on."

● Hurried love-making in the back of a car or at a party can lead to married men suffering from premature ejaculation and their wives becoming non-organic. The National Marriage Guidance Council says today.

The council says if people have sex before marriage "they should make sure they have enough time and privacy for it to be an emotional loving experience for both".

## ITV plans rival to Sky Channel

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Two independent television companies are planning to launch an entertainment cable service to rival Sky Channel, owned by News International, which was launched in Britain last week with transmission to 10,000 homes in Swindon.

Thames and Granada confirmed yesterday that they intended to apply to the Independent Broadcasting Authority for permission to sell the service to any cable networks which want to buy it.

Like Sky Channel, it will be offered on the cable network without extra charge on the

subscription already paid by viewers receiving it.

The companies are planning to use the European Communications Satellite, which also transmits Sky Channel, but it has not yet been decided whether the service will be for sale to cable networks in Europe.

The News International channel already has more than 530,000 viewers in Europe and, since the cabling of Britain is proceeding slowly, sees its international base an important factor for future viability. Most of its advertising, restricted to a

maximum of six minutes per hour, comes from European companies.

A cable service restricted to Britain is unlikely to prove viable for some years for Granada and Thames, but the companies feel that it is important for independent television to have a foothold in the first British development to break their monopoly on television advertising.

Sky's income derives from advertising revenue and a 10p per viewer charge to the cable operators.

## Danish UHT milk waits for tests

Consignments of long-life milk from Denmark were undergoing health checks at three British ports at the weekend as the Danes became the latest European rival for milk sales in Britain.

Shipments, each of 500 litres, crossed the North Sea last week for the ports of Grimsby, North Shields and Harwich. Consignments were held while hygiene tests were made.

The Danes plan to send three types of long-life milk in one-

lure cartons. "Talks are already taking place with the major supermarket chains who are happy with our quality," Mr Eric Coombs, managing director of Danish Quality Foods, said.

He hoped the test consignments of UHT milk would be approved today and full-scale shipments will start. "We hope to have our milk on the shelves as soon as possible but it is not our intention to undermine doorstep deliveries," he said.

"We are perfectly happy to have our milk tested at the ports entry provided the tests are not used as an artificial trade barrier. It would be quite intolerable once the quality is established, if every single carton were to be tested and consignments delayed."

The French are finding it difficult to sell their long-life milk in Britain but Irish, German, Dutch and Belgian dairies are geared to export to Britain over the next few weeks.

## Foxhounds may be put down

By Tony Samstag

Some of the 30 New Forest foxhounds involved in killing two deer this month may be put down, the Masters of Foxhounds Association said yesterday.

Mr Brian Toon, for the association, blamed the incidents on "a carefully organized deliberate plot by the dirty tricks department of the Hunt Saboteurs' Association".

Every one of the hounds had always been "absolutely steady to deer", he added, but constant "harassment" by the saboteurs had confused them.

The first of the deer, both

fallen does, died on January 10 near Bury, Hampshire, and the second on Saturday, at Hurst Hill near Brockenhurst. In both cases saboteurs were active in the area.

Mr Jeremy Whaley, soon to become joint master of the New Forest hunt, said yesterday that the saboteurs "use horns, whistles and shouts and the hounds really don't know what to obey".

Mr Gary Coulbourne, of Christchurch, saboteur coordinator for the New Forest, denied that his members could be held entirely responsible for

the deaths, but confirmed that "our tactics are designed to disrupt the hounds and save foxes" and "in that we have been entirely successful".

Discussions on which hounds, if any, would be put down continued through the weekend. The dogs were returned to their kennels at Lyndhurst immediately after the killing of the deer on Saturday.

The Forestry Commission, which licences the hunt and is responsible for the deer, has started an investigation.

## 'Donatello' relief for sale

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Donatello was the greatest Florentine sculptor before Michelangelo and his work is hardly ever available for sale. This makes the painted terracotta relief of the Virgin and Child which is to be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York in March an art market sensation.

Sotheby's is saying that the sculpture, owned by a couple in Florida, is expected to bring "upwards of \$1m at auction". There is still more than a month for the sculpture buyers to make up their minds about the piece.

It is clearly from the school of Donatello, but if they decide that the piece was modelled by Donatello himself and the polychrome decoration is contemporary, the sky is the limit as far as potential bidding goes.

The last Donatello item on the market was an extraordinary bronze mould, from which reliefs of a madonna could be taken. The Victoria and Albert Museum managed to buy it for £175,000 in February, 1976, after an export license had been applied for.

Art historians admit great difficulties in telling Donatello terracottas from those executed in his style by pupils or followers.

However, Sir John Pope-Hennessy, director successively of the Victoria and Albert



Virgin and Child, circa 1450-60.

Museum and the British Museum and now a consultant to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, contributed to sorting out the problem in an article written for *Apollo* magazine in the 1970s.

He accepts as autograph one Madonna in the Victoria and Albert, another polychrome Madonna - close to that coming for sale - in the Louvre and another damaged and restored example in East Berlin.

## Sub-post offices threatened

By Patricia Clough

## Neighbourhood shops may be closed

The future of the neighbourhood shop where you can buy stamps and postal orders along with stationery, cabbage, pipe-cleaners or table wine will be discussed by the Post Office this week.

Representatives of Britain's sub-postmasters and Post Office officials meet to consider the future of 1,600 urban sub-post offices understood to be in danger of closure.

The sub-postmasters are alarmed about dwindling earnings as a result of changes in the Government's methods of paying social benefits, while the Post Office, under pressure to be more cost-effective, is worried that some are not paying their way.

Now that pensions, family allowances and other benefits can be paid monthly rather than weekly, or through the bank, sub-post offices are losing an important slice of their business.

Sub-postmasters earn about 8p for every such transaction so

that a family which draws its children's allowances monthly rather than weekly is bringing in only a quarter as much as before.

Mr Alban Morgan, leader of the National Federation of Sub-postmasters, calculates that members' average net earnings have dropped from about £6,600 to £6,000 a year as a result of the changes.

That comes on top of a general drop in earnings from the sub-post offices' other business - which can range from an off-licence to a Chinese laundry - as a result of the recession.

At the same time the Post Office has found that while some sub-post offices have plenty of custom others do not have enough to merit the minimum guaranteed payment of about £2,000 which they get just to keep open.

In a recent review of its urban network the Post Office is

reported to have found that the existence of 1,600 is not justified from a commercial point of view. The 11,000 country sub-post offices, which also have problems, are not under discussion at present.

A Post Office spokesman, while declining to confirm the report, stressed that uncommercial offices would not necessarily be closed, social needs would also be taken into consideration.

Post Office authorities have given assurances that 95 per cent of the country's whole network will not be closed down. No decision about the remaining 5 per cent - 1,000 or so - has been made but they will not necessarily all go, the spokesman said.

In talks with Post Office officials last week the sub-postmasters' federation pressed for the opportunity to do more business for local authorities, such as handling rent payments for council houses.

## A Churchill joins the Navy

Mr Randolph Churchill, aged 18, Sir Winston's great-grandson, has become the first Churchill to break with the family's 200-year Army tradition. He is with about 300 young Royal Navy officers on a tough course in the West Indies.

Midshipman Churchill said: "My family encouraged me to be the first Churchill to join the Navy."

## Crash pilot undeterred

A West Mercia Hang-Gliding Club instructor who received a cut chin and bruises after falling 150 feet and crashing into a barn on Saturday in the Malvern Hills, Hereford and Worcester, said yesterday he would fly again.

Mr Michael Skinner, aged 35, from Studley, near Redditch, who was testing a prototype when its leading edge broke, said: "I used to do parachuting but I gave it up because thought hang-gliding was a bit safer."

## Sextuplets care team cut by one

One daytime nanny has been taken off the 17-strong team caring for the Walton Sextuplets in Wallasey, Merseyside, after a dispute about the cost.

Mrs Janet Walton was angry with health and social services chiefs for announcing that nursing the babies for three months was costing £15,000. She intends to do more of the caring herself.

## Superglue alert

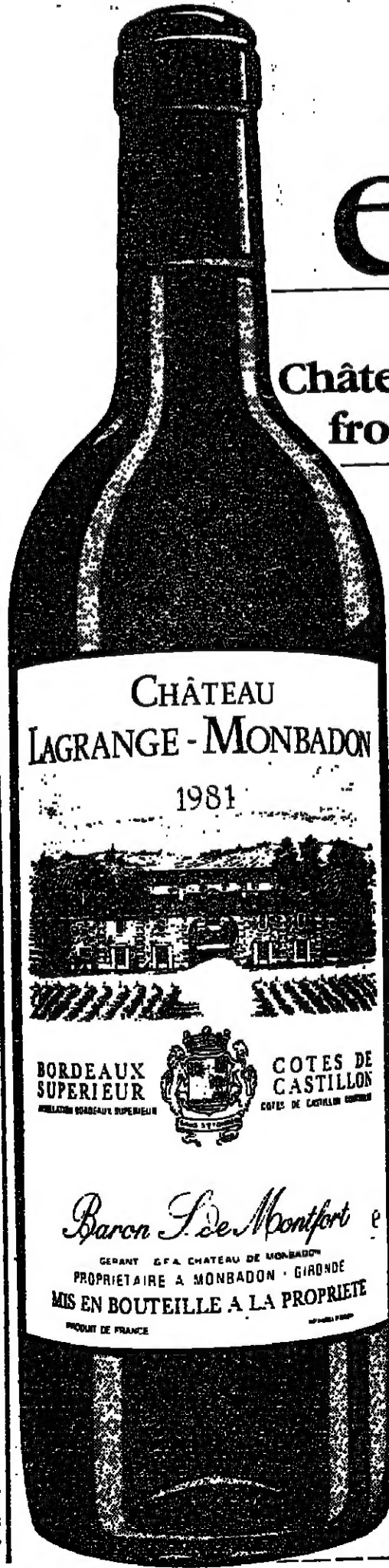
Police warned children yesterday against using hundreds of lipstick-sized tubes of superglue crystals that were washed ashore along the north coast of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. People complained of skin burns after picking up the canisters.

## Growing pain

Mr Ken Wood of Tavistock, Devon, is to sell his £11,500 custom-built Morgan sports car, after waiting seven years for delivery, because he has gained two stone in weight and cannot get into the car.

## WPC accosted

Plymouth police are to take action against a crawling after a young policewoman wearing "ordinary" clothes was propositioned eight times within half an hour.



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Please tick appropriate box

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I understand that if within 30 days I am dissatisfied for any reason with the quality of the wine I may return it and £3.06 per bottle will be refunded.

NAME MR/MRS/MISS \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE (11 characters max)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Offer closes 29th February 1984



## Politicization fears raised by reappointment of Treasury adviser

By Peter Hennessy

Fears that the Prime Minister's reappointment of Sir Terence Burns as Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury for a further five years from next January could raise suspicions that the Government Economic Service (GES) is being politicized, will be expressed tonight (Mon) at a meeting in London of the First Division Association, the top civil servants' union.

The association, which represents members of the 375-strong service, recognizes that Sir Terence, aged 39, has outstanding qualities and has been a great success at the Treasury since he joined it from the London Business School in January, 1980. But it is uneasy at the way in which the extension of Sir Terence's tenure of the £39,500-a-year post was handled by the Civil Service Commission, the independent watchdog against improper political patronage.

The commission has strict rules to protect the public service from becoming politicized which are backed by an order in council, the latest version of which was promulgated in 1982. Under it, the commissioners can approve the appointment of a temporary civil servant, such as Sir Terence, for a period of up to five years.

After that, the normal requirement is that a temporary appointee will resign or submit

himself to an open competition for his job. The commission's *General Regulations*, however, allow exceptions to be made in special cases and Sir Terence's reappointment, without the need for him to submit to a board, fell into that category.

Under regulation 11a, Sir Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, presented a case to Mr Dennis Trevelyan, First Civil Service Commissioner, which argued that Sir Terence's crucial position in the administration merited the exemption allowed if "a particular candidate to a particular situation is for special and exceptional reasons justified by the needs of the public service and the proved merits of the candidate".

Sir Peter succeeded Mr Trevelyan in signed a certificate establishing the propriety of the extension, and 10 Downing Street announced Sir Terence's reappointment on December 22. Sir Terence thereby joined a select band of special appointees made under the little known 11a regulation in the past 10 years (see chart).

The day before the announcement, Mr James Rolfe, chairman of the First Division Association's economists panel, was informed by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, that Sir Robert's action honoured the promise given by Sir Douglas Wass, Sir Peter Middleton's predecessor, that it

## Lawyers call for justice department

By Peter Evans

Muddle and mischief in government are attacked by the Social Democratic Lawyers' Association in proposals yesterday for the creation of a new justice department.

Not even experienced lawyers can understand many of our statutes, the association says. The Home Office has fought every single case brought against the United Kingdom in the European Court of Human Rights in which it has been concerned. "It has lost every one of them."

Only then has it been forced to bring forward the legal and administrative reforms which should have been carried through years before.

Over the past 20 years the Home Office's legitimate concern to maintain order and security has increasingly overshadowed its role in safeguarding liberty, the association says.

The Home Office, and in Scotland the Scottish Office, are responsible for the police, the prisons, the security of the realm, immigration control and other regulatory functions. "They sit uneasily with responsibility for impartial justice, the rule of law and the freedom of the individual."

The Lord Chancellor is responsible for the state of the civil (but not the criminal) law, for civil (but not criminal) procedure, for civil (but not criminal) law reform, and for civil and criminal legal aid, advice and assistance schemes, other than duty solicitors.

Despite the repeated recommendations of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid, there is still no unified approach to legal services nor a clear line to the Lord Chancellor of ministerial responsibility for courts and legal services.

Although privacy forms part of the civil law, responsibility for it appears to be divided from the Lord Chancellor to the Home Secretary, the association says.

Since the Lord Chancellor may sit as a Law Lord in a later case it may well be inappropriate for him to advise the Government on the legal implications of its policies. Formally the responsibility for legal advice to the Government lies with the Attorney General, who is not in the Cabinet and not at the centre of government planning.

Conduct of government litigation is the responsibility of the Treasury Solicitor. For some reason now lost in the mists of history, he reports to no law officer or even the Prime Minister, but to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On occasions governments have breached unwritten principles of the constitution which had previously been thought inviolable: the enactment of retrospective legislation; retrospective immunity for official misconduct; and, in the case of the East African Asians, deprivation of a racial minority of UK nationals of a fundamental right of citizenship.

Executive powers have been used to force companies to comply with a non-statutory incomes policy.

The chairman of the Social Democratic Lawyers' Association is Mr Anthony Lester, QC. Copies of the proposals are available from Mrs Sarah-Jane Voelcker, 30 Lanecroft Road, London, SW2 3DN at 50p.



Sublime: America's latest Los Angeles Class fast-attack submarine, USS Augusta, at its weekend launching.

## Price rises a test for Hungary's economic success

From Roger Boyes, Budapest

Hungary, widely hailed as the economic showcase of Eastern Europe, today faces its toughest round of price rises for years. Everything from meat to cars, from bricks to canned peas, will become more expensive at a stroke.

Although padded by a relatively successful economic reform, which has filled the shops with fresh fruit and sophisticated hi-fi equipment, the Hungarians are still sensitive to such across-the-board price increases.

The reform, giving more initiative to state and private enterprises, has leaned heavily on the efficient techniques of Hungarian farmers, who have maintained good supplies of food to the population.

Last year, however, Hungary suffered its worst drought for 30 years, which cut down the available food and forced the authorities to raise the price of meat and vegetables by 20 per cent.

The Government is also trying to reduce its large subsidies on consumer goods, to bring domestic prices more into line with world market prices, to reduce imports and boost export production. Critics say it is trying to achieve too much with the price mechanism.

Cars will increase in price by between 6 and 7 per cent, heating oil by about 20 per cent and building material by up to 30 per cent.

Although the Government will raise pensions and child

benefits in compensation, the prices rises, especially for heating oil and other utilities, will be a sharp blow to the poorer paid. That includes workers who have no opportunity to maintain second jobs, a common practice in Hungary, men without working wives and anybody on a fixed income.

The moral, the Domestic Trade Minister, Mr Zoltan Juhar, said in an interview, is that Hungarians will have to work harder to defend their living standards. Without price rises "the producer would have no interest in boosting production and goods would disappear from the market".

Price rises are none the less not as explosive as in Poland, where more expensive food has sparked off riots and toppled leaders. Poland increases some key food prices on January 30 but has prepared the way carefully with two months of "consultation" with the people, apparent government willingness to modify its increases and large payments - far higher than in Hungary - to the poorer paid.

The Hungarian press, though it has freely discussed the impending price rises in Poland, has not dealt in detail with the "consultations" between the Jaruzelski leadership and the Poles.

Stadium blaze: Fire that broke out near Budapest's new indoor Sports Palace spread to the store room destroying large quantities of flooring material.

Special appointments made under Civil Service Commission Regulation 11a since 1974.

Year	Appointee	Post
1974	Sir Lester Sufield	Head of Defence Sales, Ministry of Defence
1974	Dr M Ashley-Miller	Principal Medical Officer, Scottish Office
1978	Prof John Ashworth	Chief Scientist, Central Policy Review Staff
1979	Mr Paul Wills	Chief Conservation Officer, British Museum
1981	Air Marshal Sir Leslie Mavor	Coordinator of Civil Defence Volunteers, Home Office
1981	Brig Geoffrey Curtis	Assistant Ecclesiastical Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department
1981	Air Vice Marshal John de Milt Severne	Captain of the Queen's Flight, Ministry of Defence
1982	Mr Alan Kettle	General Manager, Chatham Dockyard, Ministry of Defence
1983	Sir Terence Burns	Chief Economic Adviser, Treasury, and Head of Government Economic Service

Source: Civil Service Commission



Sir Terence Burns: Identified with government policy.

## Health insurers economize

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Private hospitals are to be pressed to follow National Health Service plans to reduce patients' stays in hospital and to undertake more day care treatment, in an attempt to save money.

Private Patients Plan, the second largest of the medical insurers, said that the cost of treatment and accommodation in private hospitals had risen by 16 per cent last year, well ahead of the rate of inflation.

Mr David Lock, PPP's managing director said that containing costs was vital to the future development of health care.

That meant further reductions in the average length of patients' treatment in hospital, for instance by patients moving to hotels after the first day or so in hospital since they were cheaper than hospital beds.

PPP is also seeking to reduce private hospital groups' charges

through block booking schemes and to contain day care cases. PPP's views are similar to plans being drawn up by health authorities: Oxford Regional Health Authority canvassing plans to double its day care treatment to 25 per cent of all acute cases.

Mr Lock said some doctors had estimated that up to 40 per cent of hospital cases could be dealt with without an overnight stay, although that figure was "a bit theoretical".

Patients would be encouraged to take day care treatment only if the doctor was satisfied that it was totally safe and the patient's condition warranted it.

PPP did not wish to do anything that reduced standards of care, but where day care and shorter stays could be used, it would save money and help to keep subscriptions down.

There was potential conflict between private hospitals and the insurers, "but for the health

of private medicine we have to contain costs and the hospitals must realize that as much as we do", Mr Lock said.

In the year to last September, hospital accommodation costs had risen by 8 per cent; ancillary charges, such as theatre fees, by 16 per cent; drugs and dressings by 36 per cent; surgeons' fees for major operations by 13 per cent, and anaesthetists' fees and fees for minor surgery by 19 per cent.

That produced an overall cost increase of 16 per cent. The rate at which subscribers were claiming for treatment had also risen by 6 per cent.

PPP announced that its subscribers had risen by 12 per cent last year, against an increase in the whole private medical insurance market of about 5 per cent.

PPP's subscription rates rose on January 1 by about 15 per cent.

## Minister to study claims that official took bribes

By Jenny Knight

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, is to be briefed today by officials of his department about alleged immigration permits and allegations of the corruption of at least one civil servant.

For the past 18 months Scotland Yard has been investigating claims that a civil servant accepted bribes to ensure that work permit applications were approved, but because of a "failure of communication" the minister was not informed.

Last week at Southwark Crown Court an unnamed senior civil servant was said to be the accomplice of William Hills, who pleaded guilty to

## Public service morale at lowest ebb, report says

By a Staff Reporter

Public service morale is at its lowest level because of government cutbacks and an unwieldy organization, the Industrial Society says today after a survey of 500 bodies, including local and health authorities and the Civil Service.

The society, which has 15,000 members, is extending its advice to industry on communications and industrial relations by setting up a public service unit.

Mr Jeremy Thorn, director of the unit, said that public service morale was at an all-time low. "Vagueness of structure allied to cutbacks and changes means that millions of employees are

now unclear about aims. There is an increasing tendency for effective managers to retire early or to leave the service."

The unit would aim, he said, to introduce good practice from industry into local authorities and health services. Organizations would be urged to simplify structures and develop clearer communication and consultation with their employees.

Privatization was a total irrelevance, he said. What mattered for the public service was to clarify aims and structure so people felt committed again to providing the levels of services needed by the whole community.

## Why private inheritance becomes national heritage

By John Young

The Government must decide within the next few weeks whether it can afford to acquire Kedleston and Calke Abbey, in Derbyshire, for the nation, or if there is some other way of securing their future.

Both houses have been offered in lieu of tax, but the Treasury is wary of being seen to favour large landowners with excessively generous concessions. It does not want an avalanche of similar offers from owners who would be happy to shrug off the burdens of ownership, yet continue to live in their ancestral homes.

The purchase of Belton, in Lincolnshire, last year cost some £2m, and the National Trust estimates that it would need at least £7m to repair Calke and provide an endowment fund for its upkeep. In theory, that could be done quite easily if the Government

accepted some of the estate's farmland in lieu of tax, and passed it on to the trust for sale or rent. But so far, the Government has said it will accept only the house and grounds, and the farms must be sold to pay the tax bill.

If the Government is under pressure to save Calke, it will be still harder to refuse Kedleston, probably the finest Adam house in Britain. Its owners, Lord Scarsdale, apparently fearful that Calke might preempt whatever Government funds were available, has declared publicly that Kedleston is ten times as important.

It is seldom easy to draw a dividing line between what should be acquired with public money and what should not. For example, the Government has offered £1,550,000 through the National Heritage Memorial Fund, for Fyvie Castle,

near Aberdeen, but has so far failed to reach agreement with the owner. On the other hand, last year's sale of Haver Castle, in Kent, and the dispersal of its contents, went ahead with only polite expressions of regret.

The main reason why owners periodically sell up, or try to do a deal with the Government and/or the National Trust, are the sheer inconvenience and expense of living in a staffed servants' house originally built for an army of servants.

A likely forthcoming example is Highclere Castle, in Hampshire, where the elderly Earl of Caermarvon still maintains a staff of servants, which his son, Lord Porchester, does not wish to take over.

The tax burden has been eased by the Treasury's agreement to waive capital transfer tax on money passed from one

generation to the next, in the form of a maintenance fund.

Commander Michael Saunders, president of the Historic Houses Association, is concerned that the system still produces cases like Calke Abbey where, for one reason or another, the owners ignore potential tax concessions.

Mr Brian Laing, secretary of the Heritage Fund, says he is struck by the fragility of the whole system. "You only need an eccentric owner, or a quarrel between father and son, and something that has been in the family for generations can suddenly be at risk."

But he does not believe that owners will ever be queuing to give away their family homes, simply to rid themselves of the financial responsibilities.

## Brainwash victims in court battle

From John Best, Ottawa

Brainwashing experiments carried out at a Montreal psychiatric institute more than 20 years ago, and financed by the US Central Intelligence Agency, have led to a complex court battle in which the Canadian Government is becoming increasingly involved.

The Government has thrown its weight behind nine victims of the mind-control programme, each of whom are suing the US Government for \$500,000 for lasting physical and emotional damage. The Americans have given no indication they intend to agree to Canada's demands, and a drawn-out battle may lie ahead.

The nine victims are among more than 50 patients used as unsuspecting human guinea pigs at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute between 1957 and 1964. The tests were supervised by Dr Ewen Cameron, the institute's director.

Dr Cameron, who died in a mountaineering accident in 1967, had been president of both the Canadian and American Psychiatric Associations, and also was first president of the World Psychiatric Association.

The CIA, through a front organization, gave Dr Cameron \$19,000 a year to finance the experiments, which included a variety of bizarre techniques to clear the patient's mind, followed by message inculcation procedures to induce new patterns of behaviour.

The project was part of a wider one sponsored by the CIA to find ways of countering brainwashing tactics, such as those used on allied prisoners captured in the Korean War.

Interest in the case, simmering for some years, was increased this week with the screening of a CBC investigative programme called *Secret Tests*, which traced the whole nightmarish story.

Responding to questions provided by the programme, the External Affairs Department said the Canadian Government is thinking of filing a brief in support of the lawsuit launched by the nine victims. It also left open the possibility of recourse to the World Court at The Hague.

The Canadian Government appears to be caught in a crossfire between the claimants and the US Government, which has asked that certain documents be kept secret. These are said to include a US apology to Canada for the experiments, though there is some suggestion that, if such an apology were made, it was done by word of mouth.

## Poland seeks help for farmers Jaruzelski exorcizes ghosts

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Three phantom enemies, howling, waiting and clanking their chains at night, haunt the headline Marxist, the Iron Guard of Polish communism.

The Catholic church, with its hold on the nation and its resistance to socialism, is the foremost of these but it is joined in the rogues' gallery by the private farmers, who oppose anything that smacks of collectivization, and by those who seek to spread Western influence by means of Western currency, the dollar imperialism.

Now, however, the Polish Government is very close to unleashing the three phantoms and is actually encouraging the Catholic church to make use of Western money to help private farmers. How the hardliners and their patrons in Moscow will react, is still an open question.

The idea agreed in principle during a meeting between the pope and General Jaruzelski last summer, is to set up a foundation, in West Germany which would attract western funds from governments, private companies and churches. This money would be used to buy everything that is needed to help the farmers produce enough food. Tractors, spare parts, ploughs, harvesters, turbines, fertilizers, pesticides; all these are in chronically short supply.

The Western foundation would ship the goods to a Polish-based foundation which would in turn sell them at fair prices to farmers. The zloties received would then be paid

into a special loan fund to help further agricultural development and support craftsmen and artisans in the farming sector.

A draft Bill has been prepared by the Polish Government providing for such a foundation and slowly the composition of the board is being worked out. Farmers, agricultural experts and the Church - which will not have a majority stake but will be granted veto - will be the main participants. The Church has seen the draft Bill and it has now been passed to the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance for approval before being submitted to Parliament.

The longer the scheme takes to get off the ground, the less likely it is to attract the kind of funds it needs. The Church plan is for a pilot project of £5m worth of goods to test the institutions. After a year the Church hopes to be able to channel £600m worth of agricultural materials to farmers. The overall object is to secure £1,200m over a number of years.

On paper, it all looks eminently practical. With Western money, agricultural experts commissioned by the Church will buy say a tractor type virtually unobtainable officially in Poland - for £140, sell it to the farmer for 26,000 zloties and then recycle that money into the farming sector which is overwhelmingly in private hands. To obtain a tractor type at the moment, a farmer would have to pay 100,000 zloties on the black market.

But there is much scepticism about the programme, not just from the headline Marxists. Diplomats are beginning to doubt that the Church will secure assistance on the expected scale from the government of the European Economic Community. £1,200m adds up to much more - even spread over a number of years - than their present level of assistance to Poland.

Who will administer the programme at village level? The Church says that the "farmers circles", associations of food producers, will do so. Yet may of these circles were also the basis for the Rural Solidarity movement, so will the Government accept this politically sensitive move?

The Government stands to achieve only one goal: the improvement of food supplies which would mean the soothing of one of its sorest political troubles. That would be a big achievement but it has to be set against the price of failure: venomous criticism from the hardliners, a stronger foothold for the Church in the countryside, the revival of political sentiments in rural communities.

The Government is therefore engaged in creating itself an insurance policy, emphasizing that even if £1,200m were raised it would only be a drop in the ocean, while painstakingly going over every legal detail and simultaneously declaring loudly that the Church has overestimated the generosity of the West.

## 87 communist officers go to prison in Iran

By Hazihr Teimourian

Eighty seven Iranian officers who had been secret members of the communist Tudeh Party were sentenced in Tehran on Saturday to terms of imprisonment ranging from eight months to life.

Charges brought against them included conspiracy to overthrow the Government and espionage for the Soviet Union. Their trial began on December 6.

The sentences are regarded as mild in Iran, as all people previously charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Government of the Ayatollah Khomeini have been executed.

These included the former Foreign Minister and close aide to the Ayatollah, the late Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, who was sentenced to death by the same court, the Army Revolutionary Tribunal.

Many of the accused appeared on the state television in the latter part of last year and confessed to the crimes they

were charged with. It was explained that they had amassed a large quantity of arms.

The names of 86 of the condemned have been published in Tehran. These do not include Captain Bahram Afzali, the commander of the Iranian Navy until last May who is known to be among the accused and whose trial ended on December 8.

According to the Army Prosecutor (Hojjatol-islam Reyshahr), the fates of 13 officers were yet to be settled. Also awaiting a decision on their fate are some 200 civilian leaders of the pro-Moscow party.

Washington: The United States has accused Iran of renewed persecution of the Bahai community and said that more than 550 members of the religious faith, many of them women, are in prison in Iran (Mehsin Ali writes).



Chandrike Kumaranatunge: Her father's cause 'betrayed'.

## New left-wing party formed in Sri Lanka

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

Left-wing elements in the Sri Lankan opposition Freedom Party yesterday formed a new political party called the Sri Lanka Peoples Party under the leadership of Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike's younger daughter Mrs Chandrike Kumaranatunge, her husband Mr Vijaya Kumaranatunge, and Mr T B. Ilangaratne, a former vice-president of the Freedom Party.

In her letter of resignation from the Freedom Party, Mrs Kumaranatunge said: "I cannot be party to selling my late father's name while continuously betraying the causes for which he laid down his life. I cannot any more be a party to the total betrayal of the people while pretending to be their saviour."

Mrs Kumaranatunge's letter also refers to "lies, betrayals and conspiracies" and mentions an alleged kidnapping threat against her infant child.

## El Salvador salutes its repair gangs

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Salvadorean men who had laboured day and night for 12 days to rivet together the 70-year long Bailey bridge which now again links San Salvador with the battle-scarred eastern provinces.

A team of ever-alert trouble-shooters summoned to the task anywhere in El Salvador at the drop of a bridge, the 160 specialist construction workers are vital to the Government's four-year war effort.

On Friday journalists saw what looked like a guerrilla line of fighters in full military uniform weighed down with captured US weaponry.

American military advisers have been exasperated at the Army's incompetence and apparent low morale, prompting calls from President Reagan recently endorsed by Dr Henry Kissinger, for vastly increased military aid to El Salvador.

The Cuscatlan bridge episode has provided an image for the current state of things. Guerrillas jeered fleeing soldiers when they captured the bridge, planted explosives and destroyed it at their leisure. Then the US Government stepped in with \$350,000 (£250,000) of the \$55,000 needed to build the replacement Bailey bridge.



## Reagan campaign machine moves smoothly into winning gear

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan's formal declaration of his candidacy for reelection is still almost a week away, but the long-held belief that he would seek a second term has already pulled almost \$4m (about £2.7m) into the Washington headquarters of the Reagan-Bush 1984 campaign committee.

Nor should organization be a problem: his campaign headquarters already has a full-time staff of over 100 and campaign committees have been set up in all 50 states.

The smooth way in which the campaign has got under way so far reflects months of careful planning by the President's political advisers, notably Mr Ed Rollins, the campaign director.

The bulky, bearded Mr Rollins, formerly chief of the White House political office, has been thinking about the President's reelection since last January. Although officials are keeping details of the campaign plan strictly to themselves, its broad strategy has already become clear. It will centre on the President's personality and record and will have as its broad theme "Give him another four years to finish the job."

Republicans and Democrats agree that Mr Reagan is his own best asset. Although the latest poll published yesterday shows him level with the two Democratic front-runners, Mr Walter Mondale and Senator John Glenn, he has been well ahead in most others. There may be slippage in the next few months, but Mr Reagan's advisers are confident he will maintain his lead.

Being the incumbent has a number of built-in advantages, particularly for a candidate like Mr Reagan. As he will be unopposed for the Republican nomination, this means he will be able to continue to act as a President rather than as a candidate at least until the Republican convention in August.

He will not therefore be going stumping around the country as President Ford did in 1976. The intensive day-by-day speech-making will be left to Vice-President George Bush who proved himself to be a highly effective campaigner during the 1982 congressional elections.

Another advantage of incumbency, in Mr Reagan's case, is

his own record. The economy is brimming with new confidence, inflation is down, interest rates are lower, so is unemployment.

These are points which his strategists will be constantly reemphasizing in the months ahead. By contrast, the Democrats' focus on the scale of the federal budget deficit, however dangerous its long-term impact, is much more difficult to dramatize.

Reagan campaign staff believe they can also make substantial political mileage from the President's foreign policy and national security record. "There has been a restoration of national pride under this President," says Mr James Lake, the campaign communications director.

This is a more debatable point. The Democrats have already made it clear they regard foreign policy as the President's Achilles' heel.

Although there is a strong underlying mood of optimism at the Reagan-Bush campaign headquarters, no one is talking about a landslide. "It's going to be a close race whoever is chosen as the Democratic challenger," says Mr Rollins.

His remark indicates one of the built-in disadvantages any Republican presidential candidate faces. This is that there are a lot more registered Democrats than Republicans. To win on the same scale as he did in 1980, Mr Reagan must receive 80 per cent support from Republicans, 25 per cent from Democrats and 50 per cent from independents.

The big increase in black voter registration (virtually all of it for the Democrats) together with Mr Reagan's dwindling support among women voters could dramatically alter the 1980 arithmetic.

Another prevailing nightmare for the Reagan campaign staff is that an unforeseen development overseas could suddenly change public perceptions of the President, just as the Iran hostage crisis helped to destroy President Carter in 1980.

Mr Rollins admits that "some sort of international event we don't control and which could have serious consequences" is what he fears most. Which is why virtually all of Mr Reagan's advisers are so adamant that American troops should be out of Lebanon long before voting begins.



Exile ends: Sir Eric Gairy with his supporters at the airport on his return to Grenada.

## Gairy back but skips next polling

St George's, Grenada (Reuters) - Sir Eric Gairy, the former Grenadian Prime Minister, returned to the island yesterday after five years in exile and said he would not take part in elections later this year.

Sir Eric, aged 62, who was overthrown in 1979 by Maurice Bishop the former leftist Prime Minister, and exiled in the United States, was greeted at the airport by several hundred supporters and members of his Grenada United Labour Party.

Bishop was ousted and killed last year in a left-wing coup, which was followed by the US-led invasion.

Sir Eric led his supporters in prayer to give thanks for what he called the rescue mission carried out by the United States and seven Caribbean nations.

He told reporters he would not be running in elections scheduled for the second half of this year by the interim administration set up after the invasion.

Nearly 40 people are being held on charges of having played a role in the October 19 Army coup, including Mr Bernard Coard, the former Deputy Prime Minister, whose struggles with Bishop are believed to have led to the uprising. All are in good health, according to British Members of Parliament who visited them in prison on Friday.

"Not only did we see Mr Coard smiling but we also heard him sing," Mr Peter Thomas, Conservative MP told reporters.

## E Germans stay in embassy

Berlin (Reuters) Six East Germans seeking political asylum spent a second night in the United States embassy in East Berlin with no indication yesterday how the East German or US authorities would resolve the issue.

An embassy spokesman said the five men and a woman from East Berlin and Potsdam were still at the mission but would not say what talks if any were under way with East German officials.

He said there were no plans to drop a scheduled visit by Mr Daniel Amstutz, the US Undersecretary for Agriculture, who is due to arrive for a two-day visit to East Berlin next Sunday.

Th six entered the embassy, close to East Berlin's main boulevard, Unter den Linden, shortly before noon on Friday, and told Western journalists they would go on hunger strike until granted exit visas.

They distributed a letter addressed to President Reagan in which they appealed for political asylum and maintained they could not endure the lack of freedom in East Germany.

The group, aged between 19 and 43 and including a married couple, said they had all tried to leave legally and two had served jail terms for trying to flee.

East Germans who apply to leave are forced to wait periods varying from a few months to many years and many are refused. The communist state last year for the first time gave citizens the legal right to ask to leave but only to join close family members abroad or to marry.

## Thailand puts Soviet aid to Vietnam at £3.6bn

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

The Soviet Union has provided aid to Vietnam worth more than \$5,000m (£3,600m) in the past five years, according to Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsart of Thailand's National Security Council. In the same period 7,000 Soviet advisers,

civilian and military, have been dispatched to Vietnam, and others to Cambodia and Laos.

Squadron Leader Prasong, addressing the Pacific Security Conference in Seoul, said Vietnam was paying part of its debts to the Soviet Union by providing facilities for Soviet armed forces, particularly at

Cam Ranh Bay, the huge military base built by the Americans on the east coast.

The Russians were now enlarging both air force and naval facilities at the base, which had an important role in the expansion of their military presence in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. They had

moved in a floating dry dock for maintenance and repair of submarines and other vessels. Some 24 Russian ships moved in and out of Cam Ranh Bay regularly, compared with seven vessels four years ago.

Vietnam has never disclosed details of assistance it receives from the Soviet Union.

## Tourist shot in Kenya game park

From Our Correspondent Nairobi

Armed men shot and wounded a French tourist and robbed other members of his party after holding up the group in the Mara game reserve near the Tanzanian border at the weekend.

Leaving the wounded man in their minibus, the remaining four French tourists and their two Kenyan drivers were made to walk for about an hour and a half through trackless bush in the dark to the Tanzanian border.

After wading a shallow river which forms the border, the bandits robbed the group of their money, cameras and other property.

The wounded man, M Jean Gillet, underwent an operation at a Nairobi hospital yesterday.

## Socialists rock boat in Geneva

From Alan McGregor Geneva

The 110-member Central Committee of the Swiss Social Democrats (socialists) has recommended, by 54 votes to 22 with seven abstentions, pulling out of the four-party Government coalition in which the party has taken part for 25 years.

This decision will be put to an extraordinary congress in Bern on February 11 and 12. The committee rejected proposals that a party referendum be held on the withdrawal (64 votes to 15) or that it continue in the coalition on certain conditions (46 to 14).

The socialists are still smarting from Parliament's rejection last month of their choice for a vacant Cabinet post. Mrs Lilian Uchtenhagen, the first woman ever nominated for a portfolio.

## Astrology under attack

## Italians rush to refute religious objections

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The horoscope for Father Gino Concetti's 1984 states that he could achieve something outstanding and he may well have already fulfilled that astrological prophecy by his own condemnation of horoscopes.

Father Concetti is a Franciscan theologian who published his attack in the Vatican's newspaper *L'osservatore romano*, on January 19. Apparently he found that belief in horoscopes, in clairvoyance, in cardreading was becoming excessive and the abundance of prophecies at the turn of the year decided him to publish an article which has brought him some sharp rejoinders from offended horoscope-casters and more than one reminder that at least three Popes were publicly known to have followed the stars and the planets in making their decisions.

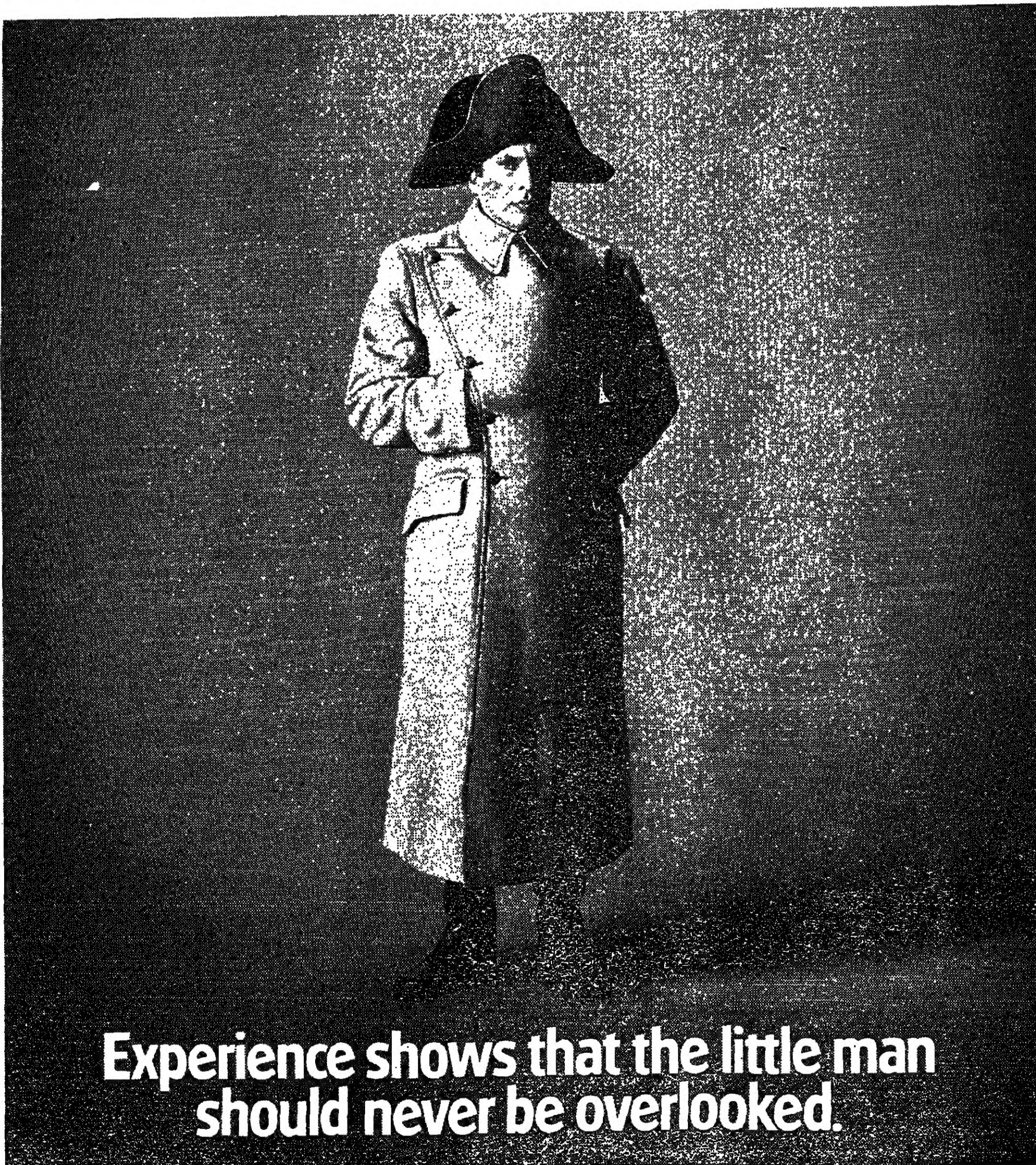
In his original article, Father Concetti harshly rejected horoscopes and fortune-telling of all kinds as "in conflict with the religious principles revealed in the Bible and with the anthropology contained in the church's teachings". The fundamental principle was, he said, that only God knows the future of each individual human being and of humanity as a whole. And he added that the spread of horoscopes was "in proportion to the decline of an authentic religious sense".

The Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera* began its critique of Father Concetti by calculating that he probably conceived his article in a period between Friday the thirteenth and Tuesday the seventeenth (which is an highly unlucky number for Italians). Father Virgino Rotondi, a Jesuit, is quoted as totally contradicting the Franciscan and asserting that it is no sin to believe in astrology or make horoscopes.

Estimates vary as to which Popes genuinely took the ancient science of the stars into account. Julius II, Michelangelo's patron, is said to have asked the advice of astrologers before fixing the date for his coronation. Paul III turned to them to know the best dates for fixing his formal meetings with his cardinals and Leo X allowed a professor of astrology in Rome's pontifical university.

The early Pope Silvester is said to have set scores on astrology as did John XX and John XXI. The celebrated mosaic floor in the Cathedral of Oranito shows the signs of the zodiac.

Two councils (Toledo in 447 and Braga in 561) condemned astrologers while two Popes (Sixtus V and Urban VIII) did the same. Yet in Rome itself the mosaic following a design by Raphael in the church of Santa Maria del Popolo portrays God in the midst of the symbols of planets.



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# Professionals take over Stockholm's stage from the politicians

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The professionals take over good. The most publicized at the Conference on Disarmament in Europe today, after last week's performance by the foreign ministers with their exiles and entrances and alarms off stage.

First will come a kind of sideshow in which eight Mediterranean states not taking part in the Stockholm meeting will make speeches about security on Europe's southern flank: a compromise arrangement after Mr Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, had demanded a whole conference on the subject.

Then, teams of diplomats from the 35 countries will start proposing a series of confidence-building measures (CBMs) designed to lower East-West tension on the continent by reducing the risk of a surprise attack. They have more than two years to negotiate agreement before the next European security conference in Vienna will pass judgment on their work. Can they do it?

The general conclusion after last week's opening speeches by the ministers was — so far, so

## Moscow sees hope of limited dialogue

From Richard Owen, Moscow

After more than a week of viuporative attacks on President Reagan, Moscow yesterday took a slightly more conciliatory line, while continuing to lambast Washington for its nuclear build-up and interference in the Third World.

Diplomats said that, although the Stockholm conference had left Moscow still adamantly opposed to a resumption of the Geneva medium-range missile talks as long as new Nato weapons remained in Europe, a "limited dialogue" had begun after six months of chill.

Pravda said yesterday that, despite Washington's "aggressive policies", Stockholm had shown that East-West agreement was possible "no matter how seriously aggravated the international situation might be".

Speeches by both Nato and Warsaw Pact delegates had shown that "the dangerous slide towards the edge of the precipice" could be stopped. Peoples' hopes had been raised in Europe, "and their hopes must not be dashed".

Diplomats said the Soviet Union might eventually agree to resume talks on strategic missiles (Ssars), but added that there might be an impasse until

the November presidential election in America. "The Russians want to know if they are going to be dealing with Reagan", one diplomat said.

Yesterday Pravda warned the West not to entertain the illusion that Stockholm could be used to secure "unilateral military advantage". There was direct response to Mr Reagan's suggestion that arms talks could resume despite lack of progress in the Stockholm talks between Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz.

The Soviet press continued at the weekend to mock Mr Reagan in terms that would be regarded as insulting if applied to Mr Andropov by the West. Sarcastically dismissing Mr Reagan's homily about ordinary Soviet and American families, Pravda said on Saturday that "Jim and Sally" — the American couple given as an example — were probably out of work, on the poverty line and living in fear of the FBI.

Pravda also attacked America, Norway and Denmark for their "military build-up" in Scandinavia, and said Nato was preparing a "crusade" against "the socialist community".

On the other hand Pravda emphasized President Andropov's commitment to détente.

## US satellite-killer tested

Washington (Reuters) — The US Air Force said it had conducted its first test of an aircraft-based missile to destroy enemy space satellites on Saturday, but the results were secret.

It said the test, in which an F15 plane travelling at an undisclosed speed and height, was carried out in California.

In later tests a second and smaller missile will be fired from the first missile and go into orbit, the Air Force said. The smaller missile is to knock

down enemy satellites by impact.

The test puts the United States into direct competition with the Soviet Union, which already has an anti-satellite weapon.

The F15 took off from Edwards Air Force Base, near Los Angeles, and fired the rocket over Vandenberg Air Force Base, near Santa Barbara.

No target was involved in the test, which was only to assess the separation of the rocket from the aircraft. Other tests would be conducted later against live targets.



Rabbis relax: Israel's only women rabbis, Gail Shuster-Bouskila and Kinneret Levine Shiron, chatting outside the Diaspora museum in Tel Aviv.

## American concern at Israeli economy

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

The Reagan Administration wants to be involved more closely in Israel's economic affairs and in the utilization of American aid, according to a despatch in Haaretz yesterday.

The paper's Washington correspondent said this was behind the unprecedented invitation to three economists of Israeli universities to visit the Finance Ministry officials who talk this week with officials of the State Department, the Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget and the Agency for International Development as well as economists who had served in earlier United States Administrations.

The Israeli professors are Mr

Eitan Shashinski and Mr Nissan Liviatan of the Hebrew University and Mr Eitan Berglass of Tel Aviv University, all advisers to the Finance Minister.

Israel reportedly have been seeking \$1,300m (£930m) in economic aid beyond the \$1,400m military grants already authorized by the Administration. Haaretz said the Administration and Congress were deeply concerned about Israel's spiralling inflation and the deteriorating economic situation.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, speaking in Jerusalem on Saturday night, explained why Israel could not take anti-inflation measures which had proved effective in other countries. He said Israel

## Drama on the waterfront as Sydney ferry sinks



## Jumblatt demands resignation of Gemayel's regime

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Druze and Shia Muslim Militias increased their military pressure on President Amin Gemayel over the weekend, shelling his palace on the hills above Beirut, fighting the Lebanese Army in the southern suburbs yesterday and through Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader — insisting that the Gemayel Government resign "even if it means the total destruction of Lebanon".

New York (Reuters) — The New York Times yesterday quoted a senior Egyptian official as saying that Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization would meet in March or April to work out a new approach on negotiations over Israeli-occupied territories.

President Mubarak's senior foreign policy adviser, Mr Osama al-Baz, said the time was not right for Israel to join the talks, but the United States should act as a go-between.

Mr Gemayel's refusal to initiate fundamental reforms before Lebanon's sovereignty is restored has led Mr Jumblatt to claim in an interview with a Jordanian newspaper that the administration "has not honoured the resolutions of the Geneva conference on reconciliation... It is insisting on carrying out the Phalangist policy of dominating every aspect of Lebanese life, and is doing so with the direct help of the United States".

Nabih Berri, leader of the Shia Muslim "Amal" militia, and Mr Jumblatt are both now convinced that the Lebanese Army, with or without the Phalangist militia, will soon be sent into the southern suburbs to crush the militias there in preparation for an advance into the Chouf mountains. Certainly, Mr Gemayel is going to have to do something soon to arrest the renewed attacks, both political and military, upon his ability to govern.

The continued shelling south of the capital has so disrupted power lines that the people of Beirut now receive only five hours' electricity a day and have been warned that further restrictions are imminent.

## Shot Libyan envoy fights for life

From John Earle, Rome

Doctors yesterday fought to save the life of Mr Ammar El Tagazy, Libyan envoy to Italy, who was shot on Saturday afternoon by two young men as he entered the garage under the block of flats where he lives in Rome with his family.

He was in a coma in the intensive care wing of the Rome Polyclinic with a bullet lodged in his head. Two bullets were extracted from other parts of his body on Saturday evening.

On Saturday morning Mr El Tagazy, aged 43, who is secretary of the People's Committee at the embassy — equivalent to ambassador — had called on Signor Ugo Vetere, the mayor of Rome, to discuss arrangements for visits which both are due to make separately to Tripoli in coming weeks. He was accustomed to driving his car alone, without an escort, and it was assumed he was about to drive out again when attacked.

Police investigators admitted they were working in the dark. No telephone message had been received to claim responsibility for the attack. The gunmen fled leaving no trace. Police were questioning several people who were in the neighbourhood at the time of the attack — just before 3 pm — but no one appeared to be close.

The attack was the first of its kind against a Libyan diplomat, though several Libyans exiles hostile to Colonel Gaddafi's regime were shot dead in 1981.

Statements condemning the attack were issued by President Sandro Pertini, Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, and other political leaders.

Gallant finish: More than 300 people were evacuated from the ferry Karrabee, above, which sank after finishing third in the 1984 Great Ferry Race at Sydney harbour yesterday. The ferry, which won the 1981 race, returned to Circular Quay to offload its passengers before listing over and sinking. Divers (below) search for wreckage, but police said no one was injured.



## Argentine Army in the dock Thirty officers face 'dirty war' charges

From Trevor Fishlock, Buenos Aires

Four former Presidents of Argentina are among 30 senior officers awaiting trial, or under investigation, in connexion with the disappearance, torture and murder of people during the years of military rule.

Nine members of juntas which ran the country after 1976 are to be tried by court martial on charges of murder, torture and illegal detention. They include three ex-presidents: General Jorge Videla, General Roberto Viola and General Leopoldo Galtieri.

The other junta members charged with them are: Admiral Emilio Massera, General Orlando Agosti, Admiral Armando Lambruschini, Brigadier Omar Domingo Grafigna, Admiral Jorge Anaya and Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo.

## Children shot as terrorists

Three children aged between five years and six months who disappeared with their parents in 1976 were shot dead by the security forces and buried in unmarked graves, according to the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, an Argentine human rights group. The army said at the time they were "terrorist delinquents" (Reuters reports).

The group which was set up to search for more than 100 children who disappeared with their parents during military rule, said it had found their burial records at Boulogne cemetery in Buenos Aires. Roberto and Amelia Lamuscón and their children, Roberto, aged five, Barbara, aged four and Matilde, six months, died from bullet wounds in the brain.

## First Kiessling report 'came from Nato HQ'

Bonn (AFP) — The first reports of alleged homosexuality, which led to the dismissal of General Günter Kiessling, the former Deputy Commander of the Nato forces in Europe, came from Nato headquarters in Brussels, according to the West German magazine Der Spiegel.

The magazine quotes a January 10 report by the head of the counter-espionage services, General Helmut Behrendt, to Herr Manfred Woerner, the Defence Minister.

"An adviser to the Defence Minister told a representative of the Bundeswehr security office in Cologne on July 27 that the Nato Commander-in-Chief, General Bernard Rogers, would no longer personally see General Kiessling because of alleged homosexual tendencies. General Kiessling had reportedly been seen hand-in-hand with a colonel".

## Farmers charged for pork rioting

Brest (Reuters) — Four French farmers were charged yesterday with theft, arson and damaging state property after 200 angry pork producers rampaged through regional government offices on Thursday.

One of the four, Jean-Jacques Riou, aged 30, vice-president of the Finistère department branch of the National Centre of Young farmers, remained in custody and the three others were released but must report regularly to the police.

It was not disclosed where Mr Riou was detained for fear of new demonstrations, over the sharp drop in pork prices.

## Ten killed in train attacks

Djibouti (AFP) — At least 10 people were killed in two attacks last week on trains between Djibouti and Djibouti. The more serious attack was on Thursday, when a train from Addis Ababa, to Dire was blown up 50 miles from its destination, killing 10 and injuring 35.

## China scandal

Peking (AFP) — A manager has been dismissed in northern China for ordering the beating of 11 graduates working in his factory, the Guangming Daily reported. The graduates, who were badly beaten, had been celebrating the new year.

## Carter inquiry

Washington (Reuters) — Federal agents are investigating how a "secret" folder of documents from President Carter's Administration wound up in the hands of a 13-year-old schoolgirl in a suburb of Pittsburgh.

## Escape route

Belgrade (Reuters) — More than 2,000 Soviet block refugees found sanctuary in Yugoslavia last year, confirming it as a major escape route from Eastern Europe to the West, according to UN officials here. More than four-fifths were Romanians and Czechoslovaks.

## Unfair airline

Morlaix (Reuters) — A court has awarded a man in this western French town £400 damages after the airline British rejected him for a cabin crew job on the grounds he was not a woman.

## Wanted man

Mexico City (Reuters) — An order has been issued for the arrest of Arturo Durazo Moreno, a former Mexico City police chief, on charges of tax evasion, illegal use of government land, possession of army weapons and contraband.

## Mystery illness



Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, who was carried from the plane which brought him home from visits to Italy and Czechoslovakia on Saturday night. There was no official report on his illness yesterday.

## Miners trapped

Manila (AP) — Two gold miners using a crowbar and a spade dug their way out from a tunnel in Monkayo where they had been trapped by a landslide for five days. Nine miners were killed and 20 more were feared trapped in tunnels blocked by mud and boulders.

## Turin kidnap

Turin (AP) — Signor Pietro Casagno, the 76-year-old owner of a popular chain of food stores, dubbed "the gastronomy king" by the Italian press, has been kidnapped here. He disappeared on Saturday on his way to work.

## Guilty official

Ouagadougou (Reuters) — A former Upper Volta government minister, Issa Bala Wette, has been given a seven-year suspended sentence for embezzling and wasting £250,000. He was also fined £80,000.

## English aired

The first English-language television broadcast in Iran since the 1979 revolution went on the air at the weekend, the news agency Irna reported.

## 80 years late

San Francisco (Reuters) — Lynn Barfield has returned three books, borrowed by her grandmother almost 80 years ago.

## Diplomat's arrest as KGB spy rocks Oslo

Oslo (Reuters) — The arrest of the first high-ranking official for spying for the Soviet Union has rocked Norway and is bound to have serious implications for relations between the two countries.

Politicians and diplomats reacted with disbelief to the arrest on Friday of Mr Arne Treholt, aged 41, a head of section in the Foreign Ministry in what is considered the worst spy scandal since the Second World War. Mr Treholt, well-known in political circles and formerly a prominent figure in Norwegian-Soviet negotiations on territorial and fishing rights, was arrested on his way to a meeting with Russian agents in Paris.

The Attorney-General, Mr Magar Flornæs, said the diplomat was carrying classified documents and admitted to having handed similar documents to members of the KGB on a number of occasions.

Mr Treholt was Junior Minister for the Law of the Sea in the Labour Government of Mr Olav Nordli in the mid-1970s and was prominent in negotiations with Russia on the delimitation of the potentially oil-rich Barents Sea shelf and fisheries inspection in the same area.

He had access to classified documents on political deliberations and negotiating strategy. Later he pursued a diplomatic career, serving with the Norwegian delegation to the United Nations, where he worked mainly on economic questions.

After attending the Norwegian Defence College, he rejoined the Foreign Office in Oslo and was recently appointed head of section in the Information Department. He handled press coverage of last week's visit by Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State.

Mr Treholt would have had access to classified documents and confidential briefings, although he was unlikely to have seen material directly related to defence and Nato matters.

Mr Flornæs said security police had suspected the presence of a "mole" in the Foreign Ministry since 1977, when a clerk was arrested after spying for Moscow for nearly 30 years.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Steen Siray, and the Justice Minister, Mrs Mona Røkke, described the case as very serious.

Norwegian Television said Mr Treholt was recruited about 15 years ago. He needed to pay gambling debts and was not motivated by ideology.

## Tarzan's jungle cry will be heard no more

Acapulco (Reuters) — Johnny Weissmuller, the star of many Tarzan films, who died at the weekend, aged 79, was still trying to make the famous jungle call in his last years.

The former Olympic swimming champion, who was born on June 2, 1904, in Chicago, is survived by his sixth wife, Maria. They moved to Mexico in 1979 and he had worked for several years as a waiter in Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas.

In 1977, he had a stroke in Los Angeles which affected his nervous system. He later developed a mental disorder. His wife was appointed his guardian and the couple moved to Mexico. A kidney ailment later developed and Mr Weissmuller had to give up swimming.

In Acapulco, he spent most of his time indoors. Friends said he suffered periodic depressions, including a spell when he would pace the garden trying to emit the Tarzan cry.

Obituary and picture, page 12.



# THE ARTS

## The masterly Indian film is not only the recent phenomenon that many believe it to be, as Geoff Brown reports from Bombay But bring on the elephants...

Public response to the Bombay Film Festival was muted until *The Big Blonde* turned up. She was Finnish by nationality, decorously suggestive in style, and she drew tumultuous crowds. At first the festival's selection committee barred her appearance; they then realized that the sizzling item, directed by Veikko Ahtisaari, was fairly damp. "There is more porn in the subtitles than in the visuals," declared Bikram Singh, head of India's censor board and the selection committee chairman.

The Finnish lady aside, this non-competitive festival proved remarkably well organized and free from frills. Not so Bombay's traffic and pavements: delegates only reached the silver screen's sanctuary after half-hour coach tours of jammed streets. The Eros cinema oozed balm the moment one stepped inside, with its unmoored art deco designs and lobby photographs of James Garner and Carolyn Jones left over from the Fifties.

But for this particular delegate, the chief temple of repose was the Strand cinema, site of the festival's "Homage to Indian Masters". Absence of English subtitles and the belated arrival of documentation deterred most western visitors, yet comprehension problems were far smaller than might be imagined. What price nuances of dialogue when elephants are knocking down castle walls, chimpanzees are scampering on roller-skates and ample bejewelled heroines sing their heads off?

Such sights abound in the works of S. S. Vasan, an indifferent director but a master showman, and a true pupil of Cecil B. De Mille. His love of pantomime plots, low-brow

japes and kitsch spectacle swamps even a supposedly serious film like *Avaiyyar* (1953): the renowned saint and poetess of ancient Tamil Nadu spends her screen biography gleaming with goodness like Jane Darwell, righting numerous wrongs, ending droughts and watching endless, incongruous floor shows.

Luckily, other masters included in the homage were far more masterful - P. C. Barua and Guru Dutt, in particular, offered proof of astonishing artistry. For the films on display effectively destroyed the old Indian *cinema* that commercial cinema and serious endeavour can never co-habit: they also smashed the lazy belief that every Indian film before Ray's *Pather Panchali* is unimportant nonsense.

P. C. Barua sounds like a policeman. In fact he was a highly cultivated, versatile and well-travelled prince, prominent in the 1930s as an actor, producer and director. The tragic *Devdas* (1935) remains his textbook classic, but the festival's jewel was undoubtedly *Adhikar* (1938), in which an orphan waif insinuates herself into the home, heart and pocket-book of the idle rich.

Judging simply by the images, this extraordinary drama might be considered a lost French classic. The camera's exploitation of extravagant decor certainly brings to mind Lazzare Meccaroni's sets for Jacques Feyder, and the crazed architecture of Marcel L'Herbier's films. Barua, too, seems almost as strange as the curves, stairways and abstract patterns around him: he parades like a young Jean-Louis Barrault, aquiline, aristocratic and dandy. This is cinema of galloping sophistication. Guru Dutt's career offers



Practised hands - and feet: Kamal Haasan in *The Confluence*, Mandi in Market Place

several odd parallels. Like Barua, Dutt acted in his own films and packed them with autobiographical overtones and dark desires, and his life similarly petered out in depression, drink and an early death. French cineastes have clutched him to their bosoms, and it is high time Britain followed. For Dutt was a filmmaker to the core, and a master of visual bravura.

In Dutt's hands the staple songs of Indian commercial films become miracles of wit or deep emotion; the heroine in *The Net* (1952) gets through a number while swinging from a tree, tied to a rope; a love song in *Paper Flowers* (1959) is accompanied by a kaleidoscope of lighting changes which makes no logical sense but which pierces the soul.

Few films can be as personally as this last.

Dutt plays a film director crumbling away through doomed love, the bottle and a crushing awareness of failure - which was more or less his own future fate. These are works of a great talent of international stature, and once again we are reminded how much cinema history remains uncharted.

The festival's Indian Panorama, which began fairly happily, declined as the days rolled on. Too many items, particularly from the south, fell into commercial clichés and left their scripts unexplored. Three films by debutant directors stood out. Nirad Mohapatra's *The Mirage*, from Orissa, examined the python coils of Indian family life with a calm, precise style that excites respect if not enjoyment. K. N. Sasidharan's comedy *The Other Shore*, from Kerala, impressed with its quiet depiction of human foibles and the lust for

prosperity: small beer perhaps, but the taste was pleasant. M. A. Singh's *Golden Market*, from the remote state of Manipur, attracted attention through its experimental ways and untitled depiction of urban rough and tumble, though the combination of meagre resources and dubious aspirations drove me to distraction.

The Panorama also included work by practised hands. Shyam Benegal was represented by the likable if sprawling *Market Place* (included in the London Film Festival last year). But, for sheer fascination and enjoyment, the Panorama had nothing to top *The Confluence*, a bumper bundle of Indian obsessions, vigorously directed by K. Vishwanath, who has been active since 1965. Once more we were regaled with songs, dances, flashbacks, family torments, parental pressures and the horrors of alcoholism.

But nimble editing kept things moving, and the final flourish of melodrama (with the alcoholic hero dancing from his wheelchair) reached the highest Hollywood standards.

Australia sent *Star Struck*, a refreshingly cheerful, pink-tinted musical, in which the director Gillian Armstrong shakes off the period gentility of *My Brilliant Career*. Britain sent the expected titles - *The Draughtsman's Contract*, *Iscedancy*, *The Ploughman's Lunch* - plus one joker, Terence Young's thriller *The Jigsaw Man*, with Laurence Olivier, Michael Caine and Susan George. The film is inept junk, yet viewed in Bombay the parochial touches seemed irresistible: hedges, Charles Gray, hushed remarks about Green Line bus drivers and incriminating fingerprints on a Whitehall leather chair. Suddenly, one was home.

## PUBLISHING

### Pride of places

This month, first in the Philippines (during the eighth World Congress of Anaesthesiologists at Manila), then in Thailand, an exhibition of British books on anaesthesiology is being held. In Finland, at Pori public library (in case you find yourself there), is a presentation of British publications on antiquities and collecting. In Portugal, a showing of British books on the EEC (how many titles is not declared). In the Netherlands, British books on music and musicians. In Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong, British books on computers and their applications. In the Regional Engineering College, Rourkela, India, a display of books on engineering.

These facts, and others in this piece, may not thrill you. They should though make you hold your British head a little higher. Last year the turnover of the British book trade was nearly £1,000m. One third of that, £330m, derived from export sales.

How much of that extraordinary figure was due to the proselytizing and promotional activities of the Government-funded British Council is virtually impossible to guess. The exhibitions listed in my first paragraph were all dreamed up, devised, selected and sent on their travels by the British Council. Ivor Kemp, Director of the Book Promotion Department, told me that the programme of exhibitions is chosen in January/February for the following financial year. Each exhibition is then assigned to one of the seven exhibition officers. Subject to the nature of the exhibition, the selection of titles may be undertaken by an invited outside expert, by a department of the Council, or by the officer himself or herself.

Although there is a Publishers' Advisory Committee (its members include, inevitably, the president and chief executive of the Publishers' Association, plus the usual heavyweight, responsible publishers who serve on such committees), no publisher has a say in the books selected. Neither do publishers pay to exhibit, although they provide books free of charge. If a book is chosen, particularly a textbook, the publisher can be transformed, provided the book is subsequently bought in vast quantities in countries which can and do pay for their books.

In 1982-83 the Council toured 269 exhibitions, comprising 80,000 books, in 72 countries. It has had a stand at the Frankfurt Fair since 1952, and last year exhibited over 5,000 new books or new editions from 400 publishers. All books shown at Frankfurt.

the eight other fairs participated in last year, and in the touring exhibitions were in print (quite something these days) and most published in the last two years.

All British publishers, from the largest to the smallest, accept that the Council is an essential ambassador in helping them to achieve first a presence, then substantial sales in the world's most difficult markets, not least those where American versions of British texts - and Soviet editions of books in English may be in competition. (Did someone say trade follows the book?)

Last year, 2m British books were housed in overseas libraries: 6m loans of these books were made to 345,000 people. £1.4m was spent on book presentations to 870 institutions in 99 developing countries. Two million low-priced, Government-subsidised textbooks were sold in 78 developing countries.

The Council issues a catalogue of its own indigenous publications, a wide range of books about British life and letters, including its highly respected "Writers and their Work" series, and the authoritative monthly *British Book News*.

One of their publications is a 96-page, large format, paperback, printed in New Delhi, and about the best piece of Indian printing I have encountered, called *British Publishers' Representatives in India*. The latest edition is the ninth and the editor has a sense of humour. A new feature, announced on the glossy cover, is "How to obtain British books in India". The Indian market is fraught with problems for British publishers at present, with so much piracy going on in the sub-continent.

This year marks the Council's fiftieth anniversary, and to celebrate they are sending three special exhibitions (each in three sets, so that they may be shown simultaneously in three countries) on tour. "Books about Britain" (450 books, 30 maps) goes to Finland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Morocco and Senegal. "British Books on Management" (220 books, 40 periodicals) to Australia, Turkey, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jerusalem, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Korea; and the third exhibition (290 books, 10 periodicals) to Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Chile and Colombia. It is called "English for Specific Purposes", and that is what the essential British Council mandarin and Establishment-ridden as it may sometimes seem is about.

E. J. Craddock

## Mark Springer Boulevard

### Nina Simone Ronnie Scott's

The recent decision of the young group Rip Rig & Panic to call it a day dimmed the light of upthodoxy in the current British rock scene; the too-brief career will not have been in vain, however, if it has served at least to launch the pianist Mark Springer.

A vital and responsible member of the group, Springer nevertheless seemed to have things to say for which the group could not afford room, and his solo concert last week represented the fulfilment of much of that promise. Typically, he began by

## Popular music

playing a tenor saxophone (in a strange style which contrasted the cool clarity of Warne Marsh with the gabbling effects of the post-Coltrane idiom), before moving to the piano.

For the next half-hour he produced a remarkably concise analysis of various approaches to the piano in modern jazz: he showed us Dollar Brand's supple rhythms, Keith Jarrett's cut-glass treble figurations, Cecil Taylor's apocalyptic thunderclashes and McCoy Tyner's rippling poise.

Springer's own character has yet to emerge through the keyboard (although an aspect of it was certainly evident in his strangely appropriate chanting, reminiscent both of the Charles Mingus of "Hog Callin' Blues" and of the whisper-singing of the Burundi people), but two ballad sequences suggested that he may be on the way. The first, heavily chromatic, was full of flickering

firelight shadows; the second had lovely pensive melodies which might have tempted a less sensitive pianist into over-emphasis.

Last year's debate at the Barbican notwithstanding, Nina Simone is still a sensitive pianist: she can sometimes say more in a couple of bars than many of her contemporaries manage in a dozen choruses. It is good to know that the "House Full" notices have been up in Frith Street for the past fortnight, but an objective ear best still reach the conclusion that her best form is unobtainable.

The acid voice is coarse now; it snarls, but cannot bite. At least, however, she put a coherent act together, which is more than she managed at the Barbican. It just seems a pity that she can no longer recognize paradoxes, or identify her own true virtues.

Richard Williams



Nina Simone: still a sensitive pianist

## Concerts

### Sinfonietta/Atherton Queen Elizabeth Hall/Radio 3

On Friday evening we were right at the eye of the storm. After two long programmes of Ravel, the Ravel/Varese Festival had turned to the much noisier junior partner and brought us a full third of his output: five works. Curiously the battering was elevating. For though Varese occupied himself throughout his career with a very few, generally fierce images, to hear his music in mass is not to be bored by the perpetual returns but rather to wonder at the perpetual variation. There must have been a hundred massive brass-heavy climaxes in this concert, but no two sounded quite the same. Much credit for that must go to the resolute conducting of David Atherton and, by no means least, to the stamina of the brass players themselves.

The programme was also skilfully planned, starting with the relatively early *Otello*, where the aggressiveness and the desolation are keen, strong and new, and later coming forward to the increasingly sophisticated worlds of *Equatorial* and *Deserts*. *Equatorial* is the work in which Varese discovers that his fixed gaze on the future gives him also an insight into the distant past, with a Maya incantation joined to a pair of brand new electronic instruments in a timeless loop.

John Tomlinson sang the prayer, wisely using a microphone to achieve something very close to the elemental, rude intensity Varese wanted. The orchestral playing was just as it was apily distended and cool in *Deserts*, where again and there is a time-warp, in that there is a time-warp, in that music being played now keeps breaking off unprepared by the sounds on tape prepared by the composer 30 years ago. John Tomlinson sang the prayer, wisely using a microphone to achieve something very close to the elemental, rude intensity Varese wanted. The orchestral playing was just as it was apily distended and cool in *Deserts*, where again and there is a time-warp, in that there is a time-warp, in that music being played now keeps breaking off unprepared by the sounds on tape prepared by the composer 30 years ago.

There were also two rarities. Ann Murray sang "Un grand negligible song" then happily

### Paul Griffiths stayed around for beautifully simple-sounding, exact performances of the evening's two major Ravel works, *Histoires naturelles* and *Dance for Burgess*.

A tiny rough cityscape made for a Broadway show in 1949 but not used, gave the festival the exceedingly rare distinction of a Varese world premiere.

Paul Griffiths

### Venetian Festival St James's, Piccadilly

To celebrate the exhibition *The Genius of Venice*, currently at the Royal Academy, a series of six imaginatively programmed concerts planned by Tim Crawford is being given at the nearby churches of St James's, Piccadilly, and St George's, Hanover Square. Venice without music is indeed a hollow vessel, but the trouble is that the city's artistic genius as displayed in the exhibition does not quite coincide with the greatest flowering of its musical genius: whereas the paintings cover exactly the sixteenth

century, the music (except in the Consort of Musick's programme at St George's on February 9) comes from the very end of that century and the first half of the seventeenth.

For it was then, as the opening concert by the Schütz Consort and the London Baroque Players amply demonstrated, that the genius of the Gabriellis and Monteverdi flowered in the sacred music which pushed this naturally conservative art-form from the renaissance into the turbulent drama of the early baroque. The programme which Roger Norrington and Clifford Bartlett devised balanced the intricate motets of Giovanni Gabrieli in the first half with the later, ampler inventions of Monteverdi in the second half, and around them, the canzonas of lesser-known figures like Guami and Viadana and the second-generation music of Grandi and Cavalli were neatly arranged.

The complexity of the earlier pieces was often overwhelming, and often overwhelmed the singers, who seemed uncertain and cultivated an old-fashioned sound, with rasping tenor, nostalgically reminiscent of all

those Venetian concerts of a decade and more ago; far more successful, and a telling indication of the advance of instrumental over vocal skills, were the canzonas, especially those led by the sublimely virtuosic and relaxed cornett playing of Bruce Dickey. Monteverdi's scintillating "Lactatus sum" was fired off successfully by Elizabeth Lane and Judith Rees, but the comparatively serene simplicity of Neri and Cavalli seemed to come as a relief to all. A nice touch, however, then to return to the intimate trio texture of Monteverdi's "Christe redemptor" for the quiet close.

Nicholas Kenyon

### Peterborough String Orchestra

#### The Cresset, Peterborough

An orchestra is born: the Peterborough String Orchestra, 12 full-time and resident players, gave its first concert on Friday night in the Sovereign

Hall of Peterborough's multi-purpose Cresset Centre.

Founded by the young cellist Joanna Borrett, the orchestra sees itself as a much-needed regional and civic amenity. As such, in a particularly development-conscious region, it already receives local council, arts association and commercial sponsorship substantial enough for lavish promotion and presentation, from all the trappings of a hefty advertising campaign down to the last ubiquitous logo.

The first programme, which the orchestra will take to Cambridge, Grantham and Ely before spreading out over the four Eastern counties, reflects a cautious but not unenthusiastic approach; and its execution was at a comparable level. Each player is clearly of high individual calibre: the leader, Paul Manley, and Ms Borrett herself, on the outside edges of their semicircle, provide, as in a direct consequence of such deep financial cushioning, was a lurking shadow of complacency. The Dvorak Serenade, in particular, was dulled by insufficient sense of discovery, indeed by a lack of any sense of urgent necessity in the music-making. Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances, on the other hand, were lifted by a stylistic keenness which was lacking elsewhere. Perhaps this indicates that, in future, less consistently safe programming will stimulate rather less safe playing.

Hilary Finch

## Dance

### La Bayadère Covent Garden

There is nothing like competition for bringing out the best in dancers, and the presence of Elisabeth Platel and Charles Jude from Paris to head the season's first performance of the Kingdom of Shades from *La Bayadère* had the home team dancing at their peak. How welcome it was, too, to hear the Covent Garden Orchestra under Ashley Lawrence playing Minkus's score with the lift and warmth it both needs and deserves.

The long processional entry for the corps de ballet, down a ramp before winding to and fro across the stage, followed by a long adagio lined up so that every one of them is individually on display, went especially smoothly. It is more demanding than some solo parts and it is high time the Royal Ballet reverted to its good old practice

of naming them all in the cast list. There have always been a few senior dancers making up the total of 32 dancers, incidentally; last week there seemed more than usual, with one marvellous youngster performing prodigies of balance in the front row.

The three Graces who arrive with the first waltz and later contribute a solo apiece were Deirdre Eyden, Ravenna Tucker and Fiona Chadwick: a strong team, all on top form. So, by the time the stage cleared for Solor's first thrilling entry, a strong lyrical mood had been set which Charles Jude heightened with a sense of drama before evoking the vision of his Nikiya, Elisabeth Platel.

This was, I believe, Platel's first time in that role; but, at an age when British dancers are still regarded by the management as "promising", she is already an étoile, the highest rank at the Paris Opéra. The reason is soon apparent: she looks (if one is allowed to say so

in these egalitarian days) exquisitely beautiful, she dances with a rare clarity and a fine musical phrasing, and she lights up the stage with the radiance of her personality.

To keep the score straight, I must record some unresurging in pirouettes; that is unlike her - could the cause be unfamiliarity with Covent Garden's flat stage? (The floor at the Opéra is heavily raked. Also for the record, Jude's dancing is not notable for the height of his jumps, but for their ease and lightness, the sense of smooth power surging behind all his movements.)

The chief virtue of both Platel and Jude is that they dance with an air of consciously showing you the sense and purpose of the dance; not just performing the steps but making them clear. Royal Ballet dancers used to have that quality; now the young entry can see what to aim for.

John Percival



Elisabeth Platel: rare clarity and phrasing

## Television

### Acting characters

Is it easy, one wonders, for actors to play actors without under-doing it for fear of over-emphasizing the flamboyance of the breed? In Freda Kelsall's *Sweet Echo*, third in Yorkshire's *Love and Marriage* series, Renée Asherson and Ralph Michael, who have acted long enough to take things as they come, played their own species without inhibition.

They were the highly-honoured, retired theatrical couple living in a condition rare in television plays these days: an advanced state of conubial bliss, she stitching things together, he a contented captive of the garden, and both fussed over by a former dresser.

Into this unusual milieu comes the playwright son of a former friend, bent on tempting them with his play. A cupboard full of scripts testified to previous unsuccessful attempts but this playwright could, it appears, have an edge. Hanging in the air is a feeling that Sir Ben Farrant (Ralph Michael) might have deviated from the path of true love and fathered him.

And that was it. All worked out charmingly: the couple left with their idyll; the playwright, whose own marriage had shattered, going off with a new light in his eyes.

Renée Asherson and Ralph Michael played it as though before a favourite repertoire audience and it succeeded. Carling made a convincing cameo of the dresser and John Harding, with the least fruitful part, made a good hand at the playwright. Gareth Davies directed. Pat Sandys produced, and the music was excellent.

If you are male and feeling "sub-acutely depressed" this morning you are not, according to the psychologist and careers specialist Paul Brown, alone. Lots of chaps are, especially those climbing the ladder of promotion. This was one nugget from BBC 2's series on *Men on Saturday*, which examined their relationship with work. It seems they cannot live with it or without it. Not a bad little series about a neglected species, and well-produced by Bernard Adams.

Dennis Hackett

## Theatre

### Circus Fratellini Shaw

Italianate as it may sound, this is French circus: to be exact, an offshoot of France's National Circus School whose founder, Annie Fratellini, set out with the purpose of restoring the form to its "traditional beauty and simplicity".

As with the *Cirque Imaginaire*, *Circus O*, and other visiting troupes, the performance is far removed from the world of hard-bitten old showmen trundling the roads with a caravan of mangy animals. To my mind, something is lost in exchanging the vulgarities of the big top for hygiene, piped music and the body beautiful. Circus originated with crowds, and I suspect that the "return" to beauty and simplicity is more a matter of taste than tradition.

These qualities are aroused particularly by the Fratellini as its artists consist of star graduates whose performance has the marks of an end-of-term show. They are comely, graceful and immensely skilled. But, with three exceptions, there is not a trace of individual personality in the troupe.

The leading exception is Jerome Thomas, a fiery young virtuoso who entirely breaks down the division between juggling and ballet. Working first with three and then six balls, he treats them with the gallantry and arrogance of a dance partner, performing lightning turns and other highly risky manoeuvres, but also endowing them with a life of their own, so that it seems to be the ball that picks its moment to slide down the arm into his waiting hand, or compels him to accelerate into double time.

Hardly less spell-binding is the work of Valerie Fratellini, a liquidly fluent contortionist who transforms herself into a succession of impossibly dehumanized shapes while maintaining a line of unbroken elegance; and Annie Peauger whose double somersaults on the Russian pole defy belief.

The transcript of the Dario Fo/Franca Rame workshops, mentioned in my notice of *Claxon* (January 6), is published not by the Riverside Studios, but by Red Notes, BP 15, 2a St Paul's Road, NT.

Irving Wardle



## SPECTRUM

Nastassia Kinski has returned to the screen in "Moon in the Gutter" in which she plays a steamy seductress. Does her image as a scheming Lolita match the facts of her private life?

## Tess and the temptress

By Nicholas Wapshott

Nastassia Kinski is pregnant. She is unmarried and is keeping the father's name a secret. Meanwhile, in Roman Polanski's memoirs, published this week, he tells the intimate details of his love affair with her. There are other rumours about her. She is the subject of interminable gossip and is followed around by photographers. Some say she is a sultry, scheming beauty who trades on her vulnerability. Others say she is a fragile young woman, half child, half adult, struggling through a sticky business with a good deal of dignity. Tomorrow is her twenty-fourth birthday and she has decided to do no more acting for the rest of the year.

There is no doubting her beauty. Even now, still at the stage of pregnancy when morning sickness can disrupt normal life, she bounces to our first date in a purple smock, violet jeans and lilac snow boots. She has foregone her auburn hair for dyed blond - a demand of her latest film part - and it suits her. She allows her grey-green eyes to linger when being introduced - a teasing practice. Her lips, much written about, are a half size too big, which gives her a permanent, provocative pout. Yes, she will talk about anything, but please not about the baby or the father or Polanski or her father. And she would not normally give an interview in the circumstances, but as you are from *The Times* and you have come all this way to New York...

So, what is there to talk about? Since 1975, when the wife of German film director Wim Wenders spotted her in a Munich disco, she has made 15 films, not all of them as distinguished as *Tess*. Polanski's film of Hardy's novel which was showered with Oscars and, for the most part, critical praise. But since then, which marked the beginning for her of taking film-making seriously, she has made 10 films in four years - as many as the over-worked Hollywood starlets under the old studio contract system.

A list of her work is, on paper at least, a distinguished one. After *Tess* came *One From the Heart*, directed by Francis Coppola, then *Car People*, made by Paul Schrader and *Exposed*, sharing the screen with Rudolf Nureyev and Harvey Keitel. After *Spring Symphony*, a German film about the Schumanns, came *Moon in the Gutter*, just released in London, playing opposite Gerard Depardieu in Jacques Beuvin's sequel to his celebrated *Diva*, next came *Unfaithfully Yours*, a comedy with Dudley Moore, *The Hotel New Hampshire*, from the best-seller, Jodie Foster, a close personal friend, and *Maria's Lovers*, with Robert Mitchum in a film directed by Andrei Konchalovsky. She has just finished work on *Paris, Texas*, working with her first director, Wim Wenders.

Such a list is impressive, yet no film since *Tess* has excited either the critics or the public. For one reason or another and never because of Kinski the promise on paper has not translated to the screen. "Yes, I've been unlucky with my films," she said. "But even the ones I don't like or feel missed the point, I can't regret them. They are all important. The way that my work and my life combines means that it has all been most interesting. Even off the record, she is unusually loyal to her films, her directors and her fellow actors. It is, perhaps, because she deliberately chose to work in films.

Of all the pubescent film actresses of the late 1970s only Kinski was a reluctant starlet. Jodie Foster, Brooke Shields and Tatum O'Neal were brought up to it by parents who decided their career for them. Not so Nastassia. Although her father is Klaus Kinski, the smouldering German actor of *Aguirre*, *Wrath of God* and countless cult films, and her mother is Ruth Brigitte, a poet and author, she found her own way into films. She slipped into acting without asking and without intending to stay.



Kinski: "What I do not like about movies is that they try to make me too perfect and great every second."

"The acting thing flowed into my life. I never said: 'I want to do that', she said. After her parents divorced, when she was nine, she followed her mother to Berlin, Caracas, Rome and Munich, where she was spotted by Wenders' wife. "She picked me up and I was given a part (in *Wrong Movement*). Wenders always confused me, because with my father and mother you get reactions very fast, but he is just like a sponge. I had never met a person like that before. You have to wait and wait. To me the film was just a travelling movie, a voyage, an experience. All I can remember about it is that everyone started talking as soon as there was a cut. I wrote that in my diary."

She was 13 at the time and had no intention of acting full-time. But *Wrong Movement* was like an audition for her - she is still the only thing people remember of the film - and other small parts followed. Although she was clearly photogenic, she did not consider herself a beauty and has only recently come to terms with her looks. At 15 she met Roman Polanski at a small dinner party in Munich. He was recently self-exiled from the United States after fleeing bail on a statutory rape charge, and was looking for models for an edition of French Vogue he was editing. He was shy and she quietly admired him for his comedy, *Dance of the Vampires* - the only film of his she had seen. Very soon,

according to Polanski, they became lovers.

Much later, when their friendship had turned to respect and affection, Polanski cast her as Tess. He had sent her to America for eight months to learn English and attend Lee Strasberg's acting classes. "It wasn't really that I wanted to go there to act," she said. "It was mainly like a spectacle to watch. I did one scene and I was very nervous." Then, after learning a Dorset accent in London, she went to Brittany for the shooting. "I was so scared, and he was very fair and clear and explained it all to the very dot, and gave me the feeling I could do it. He was a very different man when he worked. It was like a release to him. He is the most precise man I have ever seen. For him it is like a flow of music, an electric shock."

To Kinski they were just friends. "He was just a great person to be with. The love I felt for him was in many ways like a family love, but it is different because family you know inside out, and I wouldn't know him if I lived for 100 years." But it was their friendship, his reputation and the success of *Tess* in the United States, against all predictions, that laid the foundations of Nastassia Kinski the sex symbol and gossip phenomenon. She found that she had become notorious. Comment encouraged by the press agents and film publicists, was extravagant and inaccurate. She was taken very seriously, and hailed as the successor of Audrey Hepburn and the young Ingrid Bergman. She made the cover of Andy Warhol's *Interview* and, surprisingly, *Time* magazine. Avedon photographed her, naked except for a cobra coiled around her waist. The stories multiplied that she was a temptress, a tease, a Lolita.

"Mostly the press attacks me. They build you up so that they have the right

to push you down. They exaggerate everything, like in the *Time* magazine story. Then they go to the other extreme. I do not like reading things about myself which are overblown because it scares me. I know they have to write those things because their story has to be special. It hurts me. They were unkind about *Moon in the Gutter*, for instance. Of course it could have been better, but it seems that what they do not understand, or are not familiar with, they do not accept. What I do not like about movies is that they try to make me too perfect and great every second."

It is, in part, the crescendo of uncomfortable attention to her that is causing her to give up work for a year. And she wants to put her acting in a more mature context. "Work had become the only thing in my life. I have been working hard solidly. Now, if I am not working, I would rather not work. I know I will get itchy. I love painting and I am going to take that up again. When I come back, I hope my career will be new-born - it has to be. And part of that regeneration will be having her baby - I just think it is the one great thing in a woman's life. I can't think of anything that comes close to that."

Despite her unconventional public image, she has traditional, homely values. "I would like to live in a big house with animals and a family, with everybody doing their own thing. I want to grow old and become a grandmother." And after her year's sabbatical leave? "What I dislike in films was getting to know so much about a character, and you build it all up, and then it's gone, so I'd like to do some theatre acting, to make that feeling, that intensity, last. I would love to do it in London. It won't be easy. People are so spoiled there with great performances. Do you think I stand a chance?"

### The "Palais Omnisports" is looming over Paris to lure the 1992 Olympics. Derek Parr reports

#### On your marques

Paris. Reuter Dwarfs a few dilapidated wine warehouses clustered at its base, a new French temple of sport has been built here, with ambitions of providing the focal point in the drive to bring the 1992 Olympic Games to Paris.

The multi-million franc Palais Omnisports in Bercy, on the eastern fringe of the capital, stands massive and squat by the Seine, presenting a striking view of grass-banked river edge topped by a grid of blue steel girders.

Its doors will be opened to the public for the first time on February 3, when leading international cyclists compete in a six-day race in the main arena.

The project, which cost 790 million francs (£46m), at today's rates, was launched by Mayor Jacques Chirac in 1978 to boost the ability of Paris to stage big international indoor sports events.

Those with no inclination for sport can look forward to theatre, ballet and music-hall productions there. The vast oval main arena awaits the arrival of circus elephants. Opera devotees will rhapsodize over *Aida* and rock fans over Stevie Wonder.

But sports takes pride of place, and city officials proudly proclaim that there are 24 that one can practise in the palace - from athletics to the martial arts.

The virtues of the palace were extolled this week by Maurice Doublet, the senior city administrator, whom M Chirac put in charge of the project. "It's the first of its kind in the world," he said, on a preview visit last week. "There is nothing like it for versatility, linking as it

does facilities for sport and entertainment on this scale". Doublet, a former European Parliamentarian, said, "It will play a pivotal role if Paris gets the Olympic Games in 1992."

Bercy has been chosen as the forum for swimming, weightlifting, fencing and indoor team tournament finals, an outline plan for organizing the 1992 Olympics disclosed this week.

There is no swimming pool at Bercy yet, but the project organizers say it would be built - if Paris got the games.

The 250-metre cycling track, one of the few fixed features of a main arena in which most parts can be moved to suit different occasions, is not Olympic standard. Officials say that an Olympic track would not have suited the shape or atmosphere of the arena.

The palace itself is an unusual sight from the outside. Lawns adorn the walls like carpets, sloping at 45 degrees in two tiers down the eight sides of the construction. The grass, which comes from The Netherlands, unrolls down 16 metres on the top tier, and covers a total area of 11,000 square metres.

The first month's programme comprises the opening six days cycling, an indoor soccer tournament, international ice Hockey, basketball, a European middleweight boxing title fight (assuming Britain's Tony Sibson has recovered from this week's defeat by American Don Lee to take on French champion Louis Acaries) and the first judo match between France and Japan in 15 years.

The main arena can be adapted to seat 17,000 for a

boxing match, 14,000 for ice skating, 11,000 for equestrian events, 10,000 for cycling and 9,500 for athletics.

Two other multi-purpose halls - named after Norwegian-born Olympic skating champion Sonja Henie and French world boxing champion Marcel Cerdan - provide an ice rink and arenas for boxing, weightlifting, tennis, basketball, handball, volleyball, fencing, gymnastics, judo and table tennis.

The project, chosen in a competition involving 16 architects, claims great mobility for its system in the main stadium, where a monorail network carries four overhead conveyors with five-ton cranes to convert the arena for different events.

There is still plenty of work being done inside, installing systems, spraying walls, ropes, buckets, drills and tool-boxes litter the floor and electric cables hang from the ceilings. Outside West German machines - "like ice-cream scoops", according to city official Stephen Garnier - were brought in for the task of transplanting trees, which had to be moved to make way for the sports palace.

Ecological groups had campaigned to preserve the trees. But many derelict old wine warehouses whose leases had run out were destroyed - dismayed local conservationists.

Garnier said that only broken-down buildings were pulled down. Others, in better repair, would be preserved, and those who might lament the passing of the wine markets will be able to take consolation in a wine museum to be set up on the site.

moreover...  
Miles Kingston

### It's only déjà view

So many new TV series have started in January that most of us are having great difficulty in keeping up with them, remembering which is which or even trying to video them. As a service to mankind, here is a rundown of the major sagas coming into your aerial these days.

**The Far Pavilions.** An exotic story set in remote New Zealand, where a small group of English cricketers are desperately trying to overcome a tough and persistent native population, and indeed understand what they are saying. Magnificent scenery, lovely grass, but not a great deal of action. Several local girls have fallen in love with the swashbuckling English batsman, but is love enough to span the cultural gap? Ian Botham plays batsman and most other parts as well.

**The Jewel in the Crown.** A 13-part inquiry into how well Princess Michael of Kent fits into the Royal Family. Why has she got a boy's name? How would Princess Anne feel if she were called Princess Mark? Why does Princess Michael sport a hair-do that makes her over seven feet tall? Would she be good enough to play football for Southampton? For Ian Botham never come back? What really happened on the desert island with Roy Plomley?

**The Thorn Birds.** The latest blockbuster from David Attenborough. Thorn birds are small birds in Australia which live on fruit, nuts and small pieces of chocolate. If the winds in the Pacific changed, and people stopped coming out from the city to throw away their chocolate wrappers, the thorn birds might well become extinct. This could well happen if all the rain forests in South America disappeared, which in turn would cause the death of Channel 4. If this happened, lesbianism would undergo a major setback, which might push the population figures of the world to an unbearable limit. This in turn would make conditions a nightmare in Richmond, where David Attenborough lives. The gist seems to be that everything in the world is connected, or will be as soon as the M25 is completed.

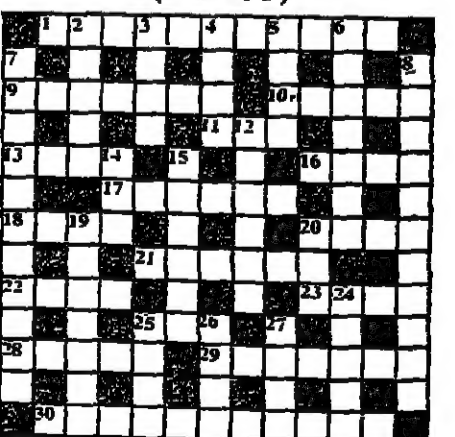
**Mansfield Park.** This Fourth Division team is undergoing its annual struggle for survival, and a sympathetic 30-part series shows what life is like at the bottom of the football pile. Saturday's episode shows the crucial mid-season clash with Delfordshire. As the weary manager J N Austen says: "Sense is what this game is all about. Brian. Sense. That, and sensibility. Basically, that's what our philosophy is. Sense and sensibility."

**Strangers and Brothers.** An epic story set over 100 years, in which young lawyer T. S. Eliot sets out with a burning determination to make conveyancing cheaper for the average man on the Clapham omnibus. Halfway during the series the Clapham omnibus is withdrawn, bringing bankruptcy to millions of ordinary people who had taken out a mortgage on it. Then a new slant is brought to history when the Allies establish a beach-head in Italy and begin the long push towards Switzerland, where the British Army had a secret bank account. But can Ian Botham get back from New Zealand in time?

**The Living Planet.** Episode 27 of a new series designed to show that almost everything of interest happening these days is taking place in India. The living Planet is the local pub at the end of Jubilee Street in Bombay, run by Elsie and Bert Chowdhury. Among the customers who populate this cult megaserial are Len Chatterjee, the chapati-wallah with the roving eye, Hilda Bhaji, the ever-popular sex goddess with six hands, and Hamish Naipaul, the Anglo-Scottish-Indian writer who considers that Ian Botham is vulnerable to a fast rising ball on the leg stump.

**Sixty Minutes.** A harrowing drama series in which most of the major characters seem under constant threat of removal - indeed, some have already been removed. It has already been written out of the plot to make way for a photograph of England from 50 miles up. But would they dare to remove dashing young Nick Ross? Surely not. This man seems destined to be the next Director-General, or at the very least to compete the Eurovision Song Contest.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 255)



- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS                         | DOWN                      |
| 1 Mutually                     | 2 Nape (5)                |
| 3 Destructive (11)             | 3 Heroic poem (4)         |
| 4 Most exotic flowers (7)      | 4 US space agency (4)     |
| 5 Gate fastening (5)           | 5 Still (4)               |
| 6 Intent (3)                   | 6 Life in a body (1,1,1)  |
| 7 Bring up (4)                 | 7 A frikaker settler (11) |
| 8 Farm wagon (4)               | 8 Mischief (11)           |
| 9 Eastern hemisphere (6)       | 9 Catch fire (6)          |
| 10 Horseback outing (6)        | 10 Insane person (3)      |
| 11 Cathedral administrator (4) | 11 Droning insect (6)     |
| 12 Loose wrap (6)              | 12 Distribute (7)         |
| 13 Brown seaweed (4)           | 13 State education (4)    |
| 14 Toilet (4)                  | 14 Gatekeeper's house (3) |
| 15 Scam (3)                    | 15 Cheeky child (4)       |
| 16 Second rank diplomat (5)    | 16 Impetuous (4)          |
| 17 Innocent believer (4,7)     | 17 Pine linen (4)         |

Solution to Saturday's prize concise will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise.

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# MONDAY PAGE

Bel Mooney discovers what makes 8½m readers in the United Kingdom buy romantic novels

## Happily ever afterthoughts

Appealing as the notion is, the saying is untrue. In America, where it originated in 1929, the expression was subtly different: "You can't tell a book by its binding." But if, as we now say, "you can't judge a book by its cover", what are we to make of the lavish exhibition which opens tomorrow at the Barbican Arts Centre? Mills & Boon, whose name is synonymous with romantic fiction, have mounted a diamond anniversary display of book cover illustrations, called *The Changing Face of Romance*. As even the most up-market publisher knows, you can certainly sell a book by its cover, and a brief survey of these images - with their melting ladies and craggy men - leaves you in no doubt about the contents.

In *Art and Illusion* Gombrich remarks: Even pin-ups and comics, rightly viewed, may provide food for thought. In a further analysis of illusion he would surely not have neglected the iconography of romantic fiction: the function of these images and their clear reference to powerful received ideas about the world and human relationships. Iconography might be glossed as a style of saying something: the Mills & Boon exhibition gives a good opportunity to consider both the style and what it says - and what, incidentally, makes 8.5 million

readers in the United Kingdom buy romantic novels, 65 per cent of whom read Mills & Boon.

The first function of the cover is, obviously, to sell. It sells by speaking to the buyer in a language whose relatively simple grammar and semantics she readily understands. That she has this immediate identification is significant: the images which sell romantic books are defined by fairly rigid formulae, but the boundaries of these are laid

### Pressure of fashion and mystery of taste

down by more complex social pressures, some elements may stay the same as time passes, but others will change - part of wider changes in style, so the writer, illustrator and buyer/reader are responding to the various influences and commercial changes which act upon a culture and change it. Even the finest artistic images are not produced in a vacuum; all the more reason for illustrative looms to respond to social change, the pressure of fashion and the mystery of taste.

Since time has turned them into modish nostalgia, the earliest Mills & Boon covers are, as in most appealing: often very stylish, as in

the line-and-silhouette cover for *The Pattern of a Star* (1932), showing a high-life couple (fox fur, top hat) strolling past a symbolic Piccadilly Eros. In such early covers the Deco influence is clear. In *At Heart a Rake* (1939) the couple are distinctly un-rakish, with their centre-partings and "nice" clothes, but by the time we reach *Sweetest Time* (1941) and *This Much to Give* (1945), the reality impinges - just a little. The men are in uniform; the wistful images would have a poignant significance for women left at home - i who, despite paper rationing, were avid for every title Mills & Boon could print, and gave the circulating libraries a brisk trade.

The war over, glamour returned to the covers. The heroines were beautiful dresses, and hairstyles reminiscent of movie stars: distant beautiful creatures to be worshipped in luxurious locations - anything imaginatively to remove the British housewife from postwar austerity, for a few hours at least. The 1960s (the great age of women's magazines) brought the glamour home, and turned the girl next door into Doris Day: accessible and bubbly. The cover characters are no longer moody or wistful, they are depicted as sunbrowned and well-coiffed children of a new age; the age of youth, success, independence. In the texts, at the same period, the girls

grew up, and no longer had to consult parents. The cinema was clearly an influence; the cover for *Golden Apple Island* (1967) has the background plainness of a movie poster of the time, and the man is a cheeky little neckerchief instead of the old shirt tie. And throughout this history of romance the doctor-nurse story is one constant: the doctors always impossibly handsome, and the nurses wistful (to be doctors, perhaps?) with long, tumbling hair no real-life matron would permit.

According to Mills & Boon the covers for the Eighties are more detailed than ever, and "the couple embrace more passionately... the background colours are warmer, more vibrant". It is the nearest suggestion to sex, for M&B are no "bodice rippers": the heroine's dresses are not low-cut, nor is there any visual hint that anything other than Romance is in view, with a Happy Ending the climax.

Study of this Mills & Boon collection throws up one curious fact: there is more variety among the cover-images of men than of women; in other words, the style of depicting men has changed most interestingly. The symbols are potent - from the pipe and tweeds (middle-class stability, pre-war), through the uniforms (man doing

his duty for girl), to the billowing open necked shirt of today (man as free, rugged, uncompromising; also man as Heathcliff). Of course, the stereotypes must remain inviolate. The girls are always pretty, long-haired and smaller than the men, who tower above them - tall, dark and handsome (it is quite rare to find a blonde male on a M&B cover). But within the limits, the men have changed - answering to the fantasies of the women who buy

### By women, for women and about women

the books, and who once (presumably) banked on dependability and respectability (is he a rake? In that jacket?) where now they ache for escape and excitement, personified by the rugged he-man.

The man's role on the cover is surprisingly often a secondary one. There appear to be two formulae. The first and most obvious is the couple gazing into each other's eyes, about to kiss. But the second is just as common, if not more - and certainly more curious: the man's gaze is fixed firmly upon the girl while she gazes either into middle-distance or demurely down, for all the world as if flowers, perfume, tickets to exotic places, the sound of

surf in the ears and the Big Kiss, have never crossed her mind. Of what is she thinking, that dream-image who gazes so dreamily into her private distance? We may assume that the object of her dream is there in the frame with her - so why not gaze dreamily at him?

Because it would not do. These dream-stories are written by women (M & B have 150 female authors on their list) for women - and they are about women. The man is the adjunct, the means to an end. The woman is the centre of the story, and unless her dream comes true there is no story; so on the cover, all the elements are directed at her, a still centre of oddly-vulnerable power.

If women buy romances as an escape (just as men buy thrillers and war and cowboy stories - and interesting insight into the preoccupations of both sexes), and if they expect perfect happiness between the covers, if not the sheets - then why is it those cover girls look so wistful? They are in a dream already, yet they dream within the dream: a little visual formula that expresses the yearning at the heart of all romance, the quest for perfection that cannot be achieved. It is as if the girls know that the idyll must end, that beyond it lies tension, unhappiness, decay and death - the static moment of passion just an illusion, so all the more to be relished.

Penny Perrick

## Charting new territory



Last Thursday, as part of the eightieth birthday celebrations at St Paul's Girls' School, the writer, Shirley Conran (who, like two other famous Shirley's, Williams and Summerskill, is a Paula), gave a speech to an audience of what she described as "beginner women". A lot of what she said went far beyond the confines of Miss Conran's title, "Women and Success", and tramped along that much messier path called Women and Change.

The beginner women may have got a bit of a jolt when this rich and famous Old Girl (who could never be described as an old girl) told them: "I welcome the recent legislation stating that in a divorce, the woman is entitled to practically nothing, because it is clearly stated what has always been the case, although few women realized it."

Equally unromantically, she asserted that, "Women stopping work for any reason after marriage should take out an insurance policy to cover the cost of later retraining... and running a home was boring... and that is why not one of you out there ever wants to help your mother do it. You are absolutely right... women often cook in order to avoid thinking. I suspect it is a sort of mental cowardice, an excuse to avoid reality."

Shirley Conran is the first to admit that there's nothing new in any of this: it just needs repeating every time a new crop of girls come along who've never heard such talk before.

Yet there was one part of her speech which came over as something freshly minted, not just to the absolute beginners but to the scattering of mid-day women in the audience as well. She said: "In the last 15 years we have been in a pioneer period in the western world, just as much as those women who crossed America in covered wagons. At least they could see the arrows and hear the Indians whoop... my generation have been pioneers of the emotions, both in the personal world and in the business world, and one of the reasons why this has been a difficult period for women is because they did not realize this... because there was no visible proof of it - except for the divorce rate."

So that's what we've been all this time, pioneers of the emotions. And no wonder it was tough going; the territory had never before been charted. Whatever we did, we found that our behaviour was somehow inappropriate, making us feel like the heroine of Elaine Dundy's novel, *The Dud Avocado* who, for no good reason, often found herself wearing an evening dress in the middle of the afternoon.

We discovered this most painfully in the office. "He hates me", we used to moan to each other at lunch time. (We should never have been lunching together in the first place, however cosy we found these women-only sessions. We should have been cultivating contacts, using the lunch hour as a stepping stone towards fame and fortune rather than as a group therapy session.) It took us years to learn that our male colleagues didn't hate us: they hated only our inexperience, our uncertainty over our long-term plans, our beady and unimpressed eyes showing up the power games they were playing as something too tawdry and ridiculous for us to take part in. Even now, when women feel more comfortable about their right to work, we mind more than men seem to about our memos being ignored, our best efforts being overlooked.

In her recent biography, *Taking It Like a Woman*, Ann Oakley, the sociologist, writes: "As a woman, in the first place, my emotions rule my life. From them I derive the pleasure and pain of my existence. My thoughts are directed by them. There is nothing that I do or think which is not inspired by feeling." If that goes for all of us, we'll never end up as president of General Motors. A crumb of comfort maybe we did something right, as we stumbled along trying to redefine the frontier. Men are now demanding the right to be emotional pioneers too. Perhaps Miss Conran could give them a hand.

● Tonight on Channel 4, you can see the first film in Angela Pope's series about ten year olds, called *A Childhood*. The subject is Gavin, filmed at the point in his life when his entire focus is on the forthcoming entrance examinations to the various independent schools on the outskirts of Croydon. Looking like a round little wisp in his brown and gold prep school uniform, Gavin is so full to the brim of high anxiety - "Do you think I'll pass? Do you think I'll get a scholarship?" - that he doesn't seem to be experiencing what is usually meant by a childhood at all. No aspiring politician could be more single-tracked in his race to Westminster, no industrialist could be more chewed about the lips in his quest for higher status than this small boy who has no time for stamp album or football. It's a terrific film and all the more gripping for never attempting to answer the question whether it is right to whisk away a whole of year of childhood in the interests of future advantage, or whether we should let children be free of responsibility and worry while they may, and hope that they nonetheless manage to claw their way to the top later.

### COMMENT

## To have and to change

Clergy of the Church of England are meeting during the next three weeks in their dioceses to discuss proposed procedures for marriage in church after divorce. I shall be attending one of these meetings with a particular personal interest. I was ordained in 1962, married two years later. I obtained a divorce in 1979 and I plan to marry again this year.

The General Synod of the Church of England has agreed in principle to church marriages for divorced people. These discussions are intended to be about the applications, but there is an organized group of people hoping to throw out not only the procedures on offer, but also the principle. Nationwide the Church of England is just beginning to stir itself on the whole question of its principles and practice about marriage. The majority of marriages in England today were solemnized in Church of England parish churches, but often with the minimum of pastoral preparation or teaching about the nature of the vows. The proposed procedure for couples seeking to marry in church where one or both of them has been divorced is complex and detailed.

It is very compassionate and sensitive in its approach, the epitome of good pastoral practice. These discussions cannot fail to highlight the contrast between the careful preparation proposed for second marriages, and the minimal preparation which is actually given to first marriages.

As the established church, there is a legal responsibility on incumbents to marry parishioners who are unmarried, even if they are not baptised. I have unhappily conducted at least one wedding of a teenage couple I could see was not going to last.

I hope that whatever the outcome of these current discussions, that people for and against marriage of divorced people in church will combine to urge the setting up of a Christian Family Help Service. This, using the experience of clergy and laity, should seek to establish branches throughout the country with the aim of helping them develop better communications with each other, better understanding, and the chance to appreciate the joy and support of faith, sacraments and congregational life for couples and families.

It should also provide a counselling and support service for couples and their children facing various difficulties, not just a breakdown between husband and wife.

Reports such as "Marriage and the Church's Task" have presented the issues on both sides, but I notice one particular anomaly: those who venerate the sanctity of vows seem to see no difficulty in allowing a monk or nun in life vows to be released from them, and subsequently to marry in church. It is surely inconsistent, compassion

and forgiveness to those who have made marriage vows.

It is argued that the New Testament prohibits divorce, yet it is equally arguable that there are two grounds for divorce which are approved. One is adultery (Matthew 19:9); the other is the desire of the non-believing partner to separate. But if the unbelieving partner desires to separate, let it be so in such a case the brother or sister is not bound. For God has called us to peace." (1 Corinthians 7:15). Surely if release is sought on these grounds, there is nothing scriptural to deny the freedom to make a new marriage.

The proposed procedures go to great lengths to satisfy those who can consider nullity as a legitimate ground for cancelling vows. I can find nothing in scripture to support nullity: it is a post-scriptural legal argument. The only difference between it and "the breakdown of the marriage relationship" is its antiquity, and the social conditions in which it first appeared.

Christians, committed to their vows, do not envisage taking the initiative in divorce proceedings. Some refuse to have anything to do with such proceedings, and will after five years be divorced unilaterally. Circumstances, such as a desire to safeguard one's rights and duties as a parent, or the need to claim tax relief on maintenance, or in the case of a clergyman the desire to safeguard his vocation, can make legal action seem appropriate. I understand that where a priest is a defendant in a divorce, and the court believes he has acted improperly, it must inform his diocesan bishop who is obliged to disavow permanently his licence to officiate. To be a petitioner rather than a respondent can be quite different psychologically, and financially, and it would be less than fair of those who oppose marriage in church after divorce to discourage by implication Christians from petitioning for divorce if they in conscience feel it right.

Marriage can die, and even where the desire to end it is initially one-sided, most of partners come sadly to accept its death in time. The real working-through of bereavement grief is when the bereaved can adjust to life and can consider a fresh start. Personal experience of both grief and marriage breakdown alter one's views and perspective considerably. It is arguable that if one is given a vocation to matrimony rather than celibacy, one should not be denied the freedom to fulfil it.

A second marriage in church can be hurtful to a deserted spouse, and much pastoral care is needed to help those who are deserted. But it may be that in time, the deserted spouse wants very much to become a partner in a new marriage and make a fresh start. It will be just as hurtful, maybe more, if they cannot seek to make the Christian vows to their new partner, rather than just the legal commitment at the Register Office.

We have to ask whether the refusal of second marriages in church alone will stem the avalanche of divorce and family breakdown. Better pastoral care, Christian community life, group and family support, and Christian teaching will probably help a great deal more.

Michael Wright

The Rev Michael Wright is an employee of the NHS and part-time Priest in Charge of St Cuthbert's, Middlesbrough.

The 'Disease of Monarchs' provokes mirth and curiosity, according to one-time sufferer Alan Franks

## As funny as a crippling case of gout

Man at party: "That's a nasty limp you've got. Sking accident?" Limping man: (shittily) "No, actually. Man at party: (Scouting embarrassment) "Oh, Soccer?" Limping man: "Ern. Since you ask, goin'."

Man at party sports wine through clenched lips in uncontrolled spasm of mirth. Limping man braces himself for further mockery.

"Port drinker, eh?" "Never touch the stuff."

"Bet that's what they all say." (To wife): "Darling, follow here says he's got (more laughter)... gout!" Wife: "But how priceless..."

Etc. etc. A typical outbreak of gout, by the end of which the sufferer will have bobbed off into the corner to read LP sleeves or call a cab. (With his clutch-foot in this condition he will certainly not be driving.)

If you have to contract an ailment with a high joke rating, gout is definitely the one. Flies may still raise a titter, worms are good for a brief squirm, priapism is beyond the pale, and herpes is frankly old hat. Besides, as a spectator illness, gout has the distinct advantage of making the victim be seen to be suffering. If he is in an acute stage, he will stand against the sideboard like a stork, knowing that the afflicted foot has but to touch the floor lightly to send a wave of pain roaring up through the ligaments. All in all, he would have been better off staying at home with a footstool. And yet there is something about the condition which makes it stand in the way of sympathy. Perhaps it is the name which is to blame - gout is monosyllabic which conjures up images of liverish colonels ranting and limping through the pages of Fielding. Perhaps the clatter of hilarity at the mention of the complaint results from the motion that it stalks only the over-indulgent, and that since it is not exactly terminal, can be seen as a just come-uppance.

This is cold comfort for the sufferer, who may just turn out to be a model of temperance and measured living and, moreover, a regular taker of exercise.

From the victims I have spoken to (I myself was a victim, having experienced the condition even though it was initially diagnosed as plain arthritis) the following is a typical presentation of the symptoms: something between an itch and an ache breaks out at a specific point in the foot - very often the big toe, and turns into an inflammation of the joint. The afflicted part becomes swollen and immobile, and

the skin may be subject to dryness and irritation.

My first attack (if gout it was) took place after a four-day walking holiday in Wiltshire and Dorset. Having laboured my way up the 25 miles from Purbeck to Ringwood, much on tarmac and much on swamp, it seemed natural to assume that this strange ache in the ankle had something to do with road fatigue. A slight strain perhaps. Or maybe a sprain. Or stiffness in the tendons, or cartilages, or whatever it is which controls the affairs of the foot down there in the darkness of the boot.

By the following morning the foot had swollen into a red inflating, with the toes sticking out of the end like the nipples of a balloon. Somewhere in the middle of all this was the ankle joint, by now perfectly rigid, and from it ran a delta of painful sensations down the top of the foot, as if the whole thing was being gripped by iron fingers. I could as much walk as fly. Not bad for a sprain.

Back in London, after an X-ray, the doctor diagnosed "an early stage of the disease." The words still ring in my head.

"What does it mean?" I asked.

"I mean you have arthritis", came the reply.

"But I'm only 28."

"-And that is rather young."

"And might it spread, this... arthritis?"

"It is not impossible."

"What should I do?"

"Do you play much sport?"

"Quite a lot of squash, yes."

So, off to the gout clinic, at Charing Cross Hospital and on to an exploratory 10-day low purine diet. I had never known what purine was, but it seemed to translate pretty fairly as "pleasure". No meat, no alcohol, no anything as far as I could see. The idea of this is to check whether there is something which you eat that is raising the uric acid level in the blood. As there was in my case a negligible difference between the before and after readings, it was back to a "wait and see" situation, with the difference that now I had some anti-inflammatory tablets to take in the event of a repeat, and very effective they were. (Incidentally, there were some gout sufferers who were prescribed a "wonder drug", since removed from the market, which appeared to have the effect of making a large number of takers drop dead with great suddenness. Gout is painful, but this was surely too Draconian.)

And that, really, is the situation

## What exactly is gout?

● The word gout derives from the Latin word *gutta* via the French *goutte*, meaning a drop or clot. It has traditionally been referred to as the monarch of diseases and the disease of monarchs, because of its high rate of occurrence among the aristocracy. Largely an inherited complaint, it is almost always precipitated either by the presence of too much uric acid in the blood or the inadequate clearance of the acid by the kidneys. Crystals of monosodium urate crystallize in the tissues of a joint, causing swelling and irritation. Although predominantly an affliction of the middle-aged and overweight, there are today a considerable number of younger sufferers, mostly male.

● Certain foods which are high in uric acid may make the potential sufferer more susceptible. These include fish roes, liver, offal of all kinds, meat extracts, sweetbreads, sardines and mussels. High on the list of "gouty" drinks are port, strong

"Yes, well, that is very bad. All that thumping down on the limbs."

The doctor made the activity sound faintly disgusting, something deserving the punishment of an early tipping of the bone or whatever it was I had. Great, I thought, you engage in this knocking sport to be sound in wind and limb, and what do you get? Arthritis.

A second and third opinion suggested gout, which caused a sensation with the lads in the Angel and Crown, the squash pub, particularly when they learned that any extremity is vulnerable. Har, har.

So, off to the gout clinic, at Charing Cross Hospital and on to an exploratory 10-day low purine diet. I had never known what purine was, but it seemed to translate pretty fairly as "pleasure". No meat, no alcohol, no anything as far as I could see. The idea of this is to check whether there is something which you eat that is raising the uric acid level in the blood. As there was in my case a negligible difference between the before and after readings, it was back to a "wait and see" situation, with the difference that now I had some anti-inflammatory tablets to take in the event of a repeat, and very effective they were. (Incidentally, there were some gout sufferers who were prescribed a "wonder drug", since removed from the market, which appeared to have the effect of making a large number of takers drop dead with great suddenness. Gout is painful, but this was surely too Draconian.)

And that, really, is the situation

that obtains today, seven years on. I cannot with any certainty establish links between circumstances and attacks, although I think there is a strong case to be made for blaming the additives in certain red wines (hence, presumably, the port fixation). I also suspect that, rich foods apart, mere change is an important element, since many people with a propensity for gout suffer an attack when they go abroad and consume a radically different diet.

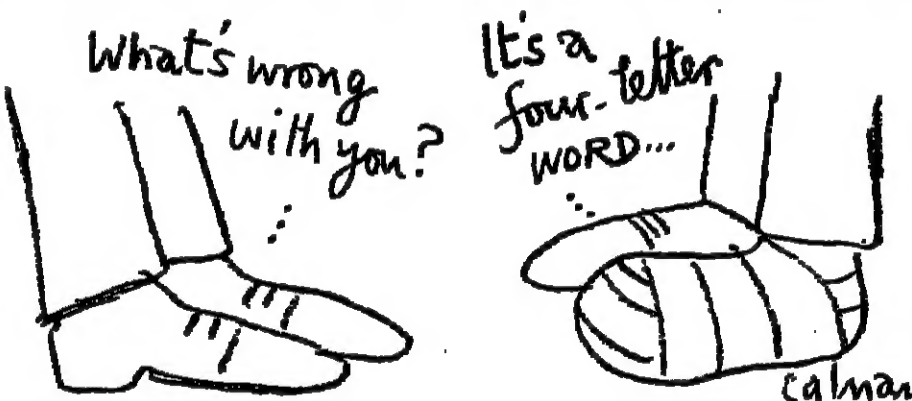
The medical profession has long been intrigued by the disorder. Sydenham, the eminent English Physician of the seventeenth century, wrote a vivid and heartfelt treatise on the subject (he was a sufferer for 34 years), which was until quite recently quoted as an important summary of the symptoms.

Historically, gout is not without dignity; because it has always been taken to have a hereditary element, and because it has also been construed as a disorder of the high born (Julius Caesar, Queen Anne, and the elder Pitt were sufferers). There was a sense in which an outbreak could at least be claimed as the confirmation of pedigree.

As Pat Rogers observed in a definitive essay on gout and literature (*Times Literary Supplement*, March 20, 1981), it was not until 1600 that French physicians began to devise a whole range of typologies. There was of the body to another (George III was a victim); "poor man's gout", attributed to too much malt liquor, *la goutte militaire*, *La goutte saturnique* (lead poisoning); "Spanish gout" (syphilis) and "falling gout" (epilepsy). All of which gives new currency to the French maxim "*Chacun a son gout*".

"Leaving aside the freer metaphoric usages", wrote Rogers, "it is evident that no great precision in the term had arrived by the time Johnson's *Dictionary*." He called it "The arthritis; a periodical disease attended with great pain." Thank you Doctor.

So what do we do to get gout off the joke list? Do we restore the dignifying prefix of the definite article, or will that make it sound yet more archaic? I know it is tasteless to claim for an illness more than it merits; there is a syndrome (it should be called *exaggeritis*) in which people of an indulgent or attention-seeking caste never have a common cold, but only flu; never a headache but only migraine; never a hangover but only depression. None the less, when the man at the party asks you next time why you are limping, try saying: "It's a form of arthritis." If he replies "It's probably just gout", jump on his foot with your good one and laugh as loudly as possible.







PARIS DIARY by  
FRANK JOHNSON

## Sniff out the vital corpse

For someone who has been, like many Englishmen, a life-long, baffled student, from a distance, of the French political scene, it is educational to take up residence in this city while one is actually going on. Or at least the newcomer found himself being invited by lots of newspapers and politicians to believe that one was going on.

The Giscard government allowed some £60m or so to go, via the nationalized oil company Elf-Aquitaine, into the pockets of a consortium selling an aeroplane which had an eye which could spot oil thousands of miles deep - and which also, it now seems, was even better at spotting gullible politicians. The miraculous aircraft was the invention of an agreeably cranky Belgian count, with a laboratory in his moated chateau near Brussels, and a round, jolly Italian named Aldo.

Machine-a-fraud: Giscard government hushes it up; sources close to present socialist government reveal secret dossier on the matter to the tedious *Canard Enchaîné*; everyone laughing, except Giscard and his Prime Minister, M. Barre; M. Giscard somehow draws conclusion that it goes to show that M. Mitterrand no longer represents the unity of the country; no sign of the Belgian count or of Aldo on French soil; no sign of the money either. That, in essence, was it.

As a citizen of a country where successive governments have buried public money in billions at commercial risks much riskier than a magic eye that could spot oil from the air, I refused to regard this as a scandal worthy of the nation of Dreyfus. This city's concerns are the arbiters of what constitutes a genuine scandal. They were remaining calm about the Elf-Aquitaine affair. What they, and I, wanted to know, was where the corpse?

Under French rules, to qualify as a scandal a French political controversy must have a corpse. The Dreyfus affair, the Stavisky affair (1925), the Ben Barka affair (1965), the Marcovitch affair (1969) - to mention several which the present student has tried to grasp, over the years, in books and newspapers while on the other side of the Channel. All had corpses.

Whereupon, a few days ago, as if in response to national need, a corpse turned up in the Elf-Aquitaine affair: M. Robert Boulin, M. Giscard's Minister of Employment, M. Boulin had been dead since 1979. But he would have to do. He had drowned himself in a lake in the Forest of Rambouillet, or at least it had been assumed that he had drowned himself - not least by his son, Bertrand, who had gone so far as to write a small book the following year denouncing any suggestion that his father had been murdered. Now Bertrand, his sister and his mother, were saying that they had discovered some documents (now conveniently disappeared) relating to the Elf-Aquitaine affair.

Estimations, new inquest rules that M. Boulin killed himself just as the first inquest said he did: general

BARRY FANTONI



consensus among newspapers that no murder took place and that it has all been got up by left wingers and wets on television news programmes; but *L'Humanité* says that capitalists always murder people they find inconvenient; congeries at last satisfied that they have something to go on.

The behaviour and motive of the Boulin family is the further traditional element. In addition to the corpse the evidence suggests that it was indeed suicide. So their behaviour is incomprehensible. But, then, so is the classic French political scandal. They are never fully resolved. Who knows who willed the disposal of Ben Barka? (he was the Moroccan opposition politician who was last seen getting into a car outside the Brasserie Lipp with several men, including a police informer who wore a false moustache and who, too, for Anglo-Saxons, made the affair as much Ben Travers as Ben Barka). Intelligence folk acting without the authority of the Gaullist government and on the French Moroccan government, we foreign buffs have always assumed, though who knows?

There is even, it may be remembered, a traditionally incomprehensible Mitterrand affair (1959). He was shot at while returning from the same Brasserie Lipp (perhaps neither he nor Ben Barka had left a big enough tip). His would-be assassin said it was all for show, and that M. Mitterrand knew he was going to be shot at a corpse, but as president of the republic. Ah, as the congeries would put it, that explains everything.

Strains, but still a special Bonn-Israeli relationship: Michael Binyon reports

## Kohl's journey of atonement

Bonn  
When Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrives in Israel tomorrow, he will begin a five-day visit the first of considerable moral and symbolic importance to both West Germany and Israel, and one that will demand all his skills of diplomacy.

For however much Bonn would like to regard its political dealings with Jerusalem as being no different from those with any other friendly country, relations between the two are special and will remain so for a long time. They cannot be divorced from the tragic history of Germans and Jews, nor can they ignore the emotions and complexities that still colour the attitudes of both peoples.

As only the second Federal Chancellor to visit Israel while in office, Kohl feels a special responsibility to make this goodwill visit a success. He wanted, for symbolic reasons, to make Israel the first country he visited outside the western alliance, but was thwarted by Mr Menachem Begin, who announced his resignation only a few days before the Chancellor was due last August.

Since then Kohl has been to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as going to the Far East. The importance he attaches to the Jerusalem visit has not diminished, however; nor have the political difficulties. The Israelis took it badly that Helmut Schmidt, when chancellor, stayed away. Mr Begin's extraordinary outburst against him two years ago were diplomatically glossed over, but left a sour taste in Bonn. And now the possible sale of German weapons to Saudi Arabia has added an extra complication to German attempts to convince Jerusalem that it wants good relations with both sides in the Middle East.

The political discussions will cover the German and Israeli positions on the Middle East, Soviet penetration of the area, Islamic fundamentalism and bilateral relations. Kohl will not put forward any new peace plan. Bonn believes there are too many gathering dust on the table already and all the Germans can usefully do is to use their good offices, in concert with their EEC partners, to bring the two sides together. The Chancellor will



Kohl (left) and Shamir: a care not to reopen old wounds

outline the three principles he believes vital for any settlement: the renunciation of force, self-determination for the Palestinians and the right of all states to exist within secure boundaries. Few people here have any illusions that any of this will lead to a breakthrough.

Germany wants to avoid taking any lead in Middle East diplomacy that could begin an argument with Israel and reopen old wounds. Ever since diplomatic relations were established in 1965, Bonn's quiet and tactful aim has been normalization, the overcoming of past hatred, the repaying of a moral debt and the removal of guilt as a factor in present policy.

The first steps were taken long before diplomatic relations, with the agreement in 1952 on restitution and compensation for the wrongs done to the Jews. The regular payments to the state of Israel have now stopped, but individual claims are still being met. These are paid to Jews all over the world. The amount that has gone to Jews in Israel comes to an estimated DM 29,000m and will probably come to a final total of around DM 53,000m. Altogether and in various forms West Germany has paid out some DM 70,000m (£17,721m). By contrast East Germany has made no reparations of any kind beyond some symbolic payments to American Jews. It argues that it is not the successor to the Third Reich and therefore has no moral or legal obligation for the evils of the Nazis.

Restitution however is not only a question of money. West Germany

and Israel have tried hard to build up human and cultural links. More than 100 cities are formally twinned. About 6,000 people a year take part in youth exchanges - mostly young Germans visiting Israel. West Germany lays great value on exchanges in the fields of art and music to lay to rest the negative image of their country.

But the scars of the Holocaust remain and anti-Semitism is still a touchy topic in Germany. A study recently published by the sociology department of Cologne University, under the direction of Dr Alphonse Silbermann, said prejudice was far from dead, and old anti-Semitic attitudes still persisted, even among the younger generation.

Dr Herbert Salten, one of the project directors, pointed to the irony of what he called this latent, undirected anti-Semitism: there are now very few Jews living in Germany - only 28,000 compared with more than 600,000 before the war (by comparison there are more than 80,000 Americans permanently resident here). And half the Jewish community lives in West Berlin. This means that many young people, especially those outside the big cities, have never met a Jew.

Apart from isolated instances of swastika daubing and slogan printing by a few neo-Nazis, there have been very few instances of open hostility. But Dr Salten fears that prejudice can always be mobilized if circumstances change. He says the anti-Turkish feeling can easily spill over into hostility against other minorities.

Public sensitivity to, and horror of, anti-Semitism is strongly marked in all the speeches and teachings of today's leaders of society, especially the young. While feeling personally free of taint, they are able to stand back and look more objectively at the Nazi past and recognize Germany's collective responsibility. And it is from the younger generation that the pressure has come to maintain the concentration camp sites and memorials to the victims. The older generation is more divided. Many people feel a deep personal need for atonement, but those for whom guilt is an unacceptable burden want to hear as little as possible about the past.

Herr Heinz Galinski, leader of the Berlin Jewish community, said that since leaving Auschwitz, he had personally invested much in trying to make it possible for Jews to live again in freedom in Germany, but there had been setbacks and disappointments. He wanted tougher laws to protect Jews from defamation. As a democrat he was equally opposed to left-wing extremism and the left's refusal to recognize that its anti-Zionism was invariably tinged with anti-Semitism.

Present-day attitudes however have been muddled by the existence of Israel. Perhaps more than most people, Germans find it difficult and awkward to make a distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Though the Palestinian cause has certainly attracted more support from the left in recent years, and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon did much harm to the country's image, politicians have been very guarded in any words of condemnation. Privately the left is confused; publicly it is as committed as the rest of the country, and especially the right-wing press, to unstinting support for Israel.

The Chancellor's visit is one where personal relations are as important as any political message. Mr Shamir has been a frequent visitor to the Federal Republic, and will probably be more receptive than Mr Begin to Kohl's well-meaning bonhomie. Bonn hopes the five days will take the two countries further along the path towards normalization.

## Parris, down and out on the Tyne

Matthew Parris, Conservative MP for West Derbyshire, accepted a challenge from Granada Television to live for a week in Newcastle on a single man's supplementary benefit. He took a small privately let flat - with rent and rates paid as if by the state. He was given £26.30 by the "Social Services", from which Granada deducted £9.30 for the fixed expenditure which a genuine recipient would have to make. The rest had to suffice for food, gas, electricity and "luxuries". Did the experience have any effect on his political views? This is his report

You can forget leather armchairs and Socratic dialogue: there's nothing like physical discomfort to challenge intellectual certainty: and I'm cold.

It's snowing outside and I've just come in from dealing with the frozen corpse of a stray cat - a kerbside victim of feline hypothermia. I had not realized their tails went so stiff. Fumbling for a 50p coin for the gas meter, it occurs to me that perhaps poverty is as good a test of a Tory's commitment to Conservatism as is prosperity of a Socialist's commitment to egalitarianism.

I run, mentally, through the tenets of the Free Market Philosophy, repeating them to myself a little desperately, seeking (as did Saint Therese of Lisieux) in moments of spiritual or physical peril the reassurance of a familiar recitation.

The Market must decide. Yesterday's industries must be allowed to die if room is to be made for tomorrow's. Gosh that sounds harsh, but I still believe it. Even as I stare at the sad, empty shipyards, or talk to the unemployed men who used to work there, I cannot waver from that, and nor do many of them. Unrealistic though some of them are about what the Government can do, they glumly acknowledge that there is no point in pouring billions into loss-making industries.

Regional aid distorts the market and props up inefficiency. The state has no more business choosing the geography of investment than choosing the type. I'm less cocksure about that than I was a few days ago. Millions of people are settled here; must they move to the jobs - or cannot industry be prodded into moving to them? No - come to think of it - no: on the economic argument it is wrong to interfere. But on the social argument? I'm less

It is all very well for us pedantic prescriptivists of language to grumble about other men's jargon. We should put our money where our mouths are and offer constructive alternatives. Sometimes it is easy. I have been sent an American research paper concerning the habits of raccoons, which at one point runs: "Although solitary under normal prevailing circumstances, raccoons may congregate simultaneously in certain situations of artificially enhanced resource availability." I cannot see that this means any more than that raccoons live alone, but gather at bait. Presumably the simple version was considered not impressive enough for a research paper.

Sometimes translation would spoil the beauty of the jargon. I ran across the word "humdudgeon" the other day, meaning something like accide or being down in the hypocritical dumps or the black and blue. This is cheating, since "humdudgeon" is clearly



Matthew Parris in the dole queue: "What can we tell them?"

sure... but then so is Norman Tebbit, so I cannot be all that wet. If we cannot transform the North-East, perhaps we can at least help let people down gently? Or do I really mean "die with dignity"?

People should move to where the jobs are. It has just struck me, and struck me hard, that Adam Smith is not saying that at all. I've been muddling him up with Sir Alfred Sherman. Smith was not a socialist. Smith would say that people "will" move to where the jobs are.

Sherman would say that they "should". It is the difference between the priest and the scientist and why Sherman is offensive and Smith is not. The fact is, of course, that people do move, without needing instructions from any of us. People are quitting Newcastle at a faster rate than the economy can absorb. There is no evidence of a shortage anywhere in the country, of middle-aged, unemployed ship workers, created by the disinclination of these gentlemen to leave Newcastle.

I see why the moral imperative in that word "should" is gratuitous and therefore offensive - but I see, too, why it is important to those who use it: it comforts them. It implies that the distress of the unemployed is somehow self-imposed, unnecessary - their responsibility entirely.

We must not stifle energy and initiative. Fear not, Prime Minister. That famous British drive and

scintillancy is alive and well in Scunthorpe, Tyneside - and emerging in ways which are not quite what you, or I, had in mind. Curiously, I find that rather encouraging, if reprehensible. Far worse would be to see people's spirits broken... but one had better say no more, for fear of being thought to condone fraud or vandalism.

Less controversially, it could be put like this: I worry most about those who do not riot, or become barrack-room social-security experts, but passively accept their fate. The outward signs are often those of passivity, even laziness, but, as the manager of the job centre here told me, people do not start that way. At first a man who has had a job all his life is sure he will find another. Gradually, confidence wanes. Twice-daily visits to the job centre become twice-monthly. Eventually, he stops calling.

I am meeting many such people. For those in middle life, unskilled or skilled only in the trades whose industries are declining in Newcastle (and everywhere else), the chances of a job are poor indeed. You could (my hard line colleagues are right) push them into seeking the unskilled in the new and shiny jobs for which school-leavers already vie, at rock-bottom wages, by reducing the family benefits which create the "poverty trap"; but what would be the point, when unskilled work is already as sought after and as badly

paid as it is in the North-East? Alternatively you could, as more "imaginative" politicians often argue, try to train people for new careers. We do this, for some, but to do it for all would cost the earth, produce mixed results, and offend on to the jobs market hundreds of thousands of middle-aged men to compete with apprentices and college leavers for jobs which there is already no difficulty in filling.

So what else can these men do? Is it practical to urge that they take their families and rise, like a flock of birds, heading for the Home Counties? Of course not. The Government rather depends on their not doing so - not, at least, all at once. They are well and truly stuck.

What is there to say to them? When I protest that Mrs Thatcher is doing as much as anyone is able, this is met with incredulous jeers. "Why are we being punished?" is the question I have been asked everywhere. In that sense, the residents of the estate where I am living are deeply unrealistic. I keep telling them so. But, it occurs to me, am I, too, living in a fantasy world believing that there is any way to lead them away from such delusions. What is more bitter than the thought that your problems are nobody's fault at all, but just your own? But, in your region is a victim of some kind of economic road accident?

Is there any way you can tell a man that his industry, his job and his family are necessary, even glorious, casualties in the battle to transform the British economy and revolutionize social attitudes - and make him feel good about it?

Five years ago, scolding a Conservative parliamentary candidate who had got into hot water for writing a rude letter to a complaining council tenant (a Mrs Collingwood), Auberon Waugh wrote:

"The truth of the matter is that something rather nasty is going to happen to the Collingwoods of this world and... the least we can do is to tell them the truth. I want you to tell the Collingwoods, 'I deeply sympathize. With sob and tears he sorted out those of the largest size.'"

The best advice might be genuinely to feel sorry for the things that have got to be done.

The parliamentary candidate in question happened to be me. After five years in the House of Commons and three days in Newcastle, I rather think Mr Waugh was right.

For the benefit of Mr Parris is the title of tonight's *World in Action* programme on ITV at 8.30.

to diagnose." If a doctor has a particular skill in diagnosis, we sometimes say that he is a first-class diagnostician; but I have never heard anybody say that he has great diagnosability, i.e. ability to diagnose.

The question is not a trivial one. The Glasgow medics have got hold of an important new concept, and their name for it is about to become fixed and adopted as part of the jargon of medicine, and eventually the English language. If we can think of a better name for the concept, now is the time to tell them. They are keen to have linguistic help. The trouble is that I can think of no single word that expresses the concept they want so clearly as "diagnosability", long and ugly though that word may be. If we can do no better, it is wet and whimsical to stand on the touchline jeering at the players out there struggling in the mud of their technical terminology. Difficult new concepts may need long and difficult words.

Anne Sofer

## Radical: rooting for - or out

Every two-fingered typist like myself knows that some words are easier than others. The ones we are used to - like "the" or "and" or "yours sincerely" - transfer themselves accurately and effortlessly on to paper as soon as the very thought of them comes into our heads: custom makes the transcription automatic. It is therefore a useful warning signal when other words start behaving in the same way. I noticed some years ago that no sooner had I typed the letter "c" but "community" seemed to follow as if by magic. A tentative diagnosis of glossitis proved correct on further examination.

The same simple test has recently shown up another favourite political word which I regret very much having to point the finger at: and that is "radical". Describe something as radical and it must be good. Whatever party conference you're at it gets an enthusiastic round of applause.

"Radical" acts as the flip side of that other useful political adjective "massive". One party's radical change is another's massive disruption, whether it is the abolition of the GLC or the House of Lords or the introduction of local income tax. It hasn't always been like this. In the earlier part of this century, in - say - the novels of John Buchan or the satirical dialogue of Bernard Shaw, "radical" was a word in the mouths of the establishment, that got strung together with "anarchist", "bohemian" and "boishevik".

I can also well remember, in the mid-1950s, visiting a college friend's family in North Carolina and discussing, on the porch before dinner (amid fireflies, wisteria, mistletoe) the wickedness of a leading Democratic politician (Adlai Stevenson perhaps?). "But what are his policies?" I innocently burst out. In the frosty silence that followed Great Aunt Sally Lou looked sternly at me over her bifocals. "Mah deah," she said. "Ah don't precisely know, but you may be sure they are very radical." She said it in such a way that the correct response would have been a small ladylike scream and an alarmed "Oh, my word!"

But now we all want to be radical. Ronald Butcher regrettably noted last week that Mrs Thatcher has abandoned her radicalism. The far right glories in the adjective - though I am not yet convinced that right-wing radicalism is anything other than an attempt to make unfashionable prejudices fashionable: a sort of *epater l'establishment* on issues of poverty, race and sex. The far left, wishing to dissociate itself from the sort of socialism we have had up to now, will call for "radical socialism". And now increasingly some of my own political colleagues talk about the "radical centre". This expression is sometimes derided as a contradiction in terms, but I don't see why it

should be: most roots after all are centrally placed in relation to that which grows from them.

It must be the feeling of unease and decline in the nation as a whole that makes politicians want to give the impression that hacking away at the roots of the problem is what is needed, and that their party alone, of course, has the sharp spades and muscle power.



Radical: radical heritage

In this climate the most fortunate politician around must be my old friend the Shadow Secretary of State for Education whose name is in fact the Italian derivation from the same Latin *radix*: a root. Who would not like to be known as Giles the Radical?

But roots of course have an other symbolism. On many political typewriters the term "grass-roots" must score heavily for constant usage. And it has altogether different connotations: grass-roots are there to be nurtured and taken notice of, not boldly pulled up and rudely examined. Grass-roots represent everything that is simple and honest and worthy in life: they are the "workers in the field" (another agricultural image); they are (like the community) what I represent and the other side does not. Both the comforting and the challenging sides of the notion of roots are contained in that brilliant cliché "grass-roots radicalism". It is what we all must return to, whatsoever it may mean.

I will be sorry to give "radical" up. It has such an honourable tradition: for so long it stood for those who were prepared to look clearly at what was there, think deeply about it, and then work fearlessly to change it in the direction of greater justice and freedom. The Liberal Party, who championed the word throughout the long period when it was regarded as an insult, have the most reason to deplore its current corruption.

But I think we will have to give it a rest, and find other and more precise definitions of what we are about. Any word which, as currently used, could as conveniently describe the Final Solution as the introduction of universal Higher Education is not the word for me.

Graham Mather

## Schooling boys for the jobs

Sir Keith Joseph is right to say that Britain's secondary education crisis is not about resources. In 1982/83 education absorbed 12 per cent of public spending, as much as defence or as much as total spending by the departments of Industry, Transport, Employment and Agriculture combined.

In recent years Britain has been spending more on education as a percentage of gross domestic product than France or West Germany, but we are still not equipped with a system that begins to meet the distinct academic, technical and vocational education and training needs of either higher education or of employers.

Employers' needs are more subtle than is commonly recognized. They share with parents a resolute attachment to the certainties of O and A levels to measure academic achievement. At the same time industry greatly needs better vocational education courses and means of measuring them. It also needs specialist, technological education and training.

Industrialists fear that a common 16-plus examination would constitute a meaningless amalgam, incapable of measuring differing skills. They fear that a drive against early specialization, aimed at leading more children towards applied science, may simply diminish the supply of gifted specialists in non-scientific subjects.

So it is ironic that the increasingly desperate attempts to add vocational and technical elements to the comprehensive education system received so little prominence in Sir Keith's speech. Although experimental projects to improve curricula for children ill-suited to the present 16-plus examinations are under way, they appear outside the mainstream of Department of Education and Science thinking. Yet they are essential to long-term economic success.

Sixty-five per cent of British workers have no vocational qualifications at all. While the French spend 25 per cent and the Germans 15 per cent of their education budgets on vocational training, we spend 8 per cent. Of workers with intermediate vocational qualifications, a commercial or technical nature, critical to an economy with an expanding service sector, 60 per cent of the West German workforce is qualified; Britain lags at 30 per cent.

The Manpower Services Commission is taking the lead in an attempt, in the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative, to reestablish technological education and training for 14 to 18-year-olds. The Department of Trade and Industry is promoting computers in schools. Business groups, rather

more strongly than education experts and officials, are emphasizing the need for a 17-plus, nationally examined Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education: a measure specifically designed for the great majority of school leavers to test skills and abilities which they will subsequently need.

It is disturbing that the concerns of business and the preoccupations of educationists, largely reflected in DES attitudes, differ so markedly. For the department's decade-old concern to merge GCE and CSE examinations at 16, or to introduce "F" levels designed to discourage early specialization, appear at best peripheral to industry's needs. Many employers and many in higher education are unconvinced that the disparities in performance which cause Sir Keith so much concern can be slotted into a single examination system; or that a single system could ever cope satisfactorily with academic, vocational and technological strands of learning.

If his recent speech left these queries unanswered it is in part because they are incapable of early resolution. To do so would, however, also focus attention on a development which is less likely than the speech to receive universal approval.

If there is a common strand in the unpublicized educational rescue initiatives being undertaken at industry's behest it is the return to the scheme of the 1944 Butler Education Act. Its tripartite academic, vocational and technical structure is beginning to reappear.

The shortcomings of the 1944 system lay in its omissions. No public examinations designed for the vocational needs of the modern schools were introduced until the appearance of the CSE, a watered-down variant on an academic theme. A 17-plus Certificate in Vocational Education would fill this gap.

Technical schools provided places for only 2 per cent of secondary pupils. Planned part-time continuation colleges did not appear, nor were school and college courses adequately integrated. But the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative, if expanded from its pilot schemes, would fill this gap, and could be integrated with the MSC's other non-school training programmes.

Perhaps, therefore, some of the deeper questions raised by Sir Keith's speech are already being answered. To what extent the measures which will follow the speech complement these developments remains to be seen.

The author is head of the Institute of Directors' policy unit.

## Prognosis, please

New words and new meanings, by Philip Howard

obsolete slang, not jargon. But it is such a smashing word that it is worth bringing to your attention. It is probably a portmanteau word made up from humbug and dudgeon, and it is crisply defined in that rich source of slang, Francis Grose's *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* (1785): "An imaginary illness. He has got the humdudgeon, the thickest part of his thigh is nearest his a-se; i.e. nothing ails him except low spirits."

But sometimes a piece of new jargon is a jaw-cracker, but untranslatable into simpler language. For example, the new word "diagnosability" threatens us. I have a learned and eminent correspondent who works in the Diagnostic Methodology Research Unit of the Southern

General Hospital, Glasgow. The unit is pioneering research into how far it is possible to express clinical medicine in mathematical form. It has developed a concept of measurement, the extent to which a particular disease is diagnosable. If a particular disease has characteristics that commonly exist in that disease, but are only rarely found in other diseases, such a disease ought to be easily diagnosable.

The Glasgow statistical and medical professors can now give a measurement to this concept, and they need a name for it. At present, as a working title, they are calling it "diagnosability", meaning "the ability to be diagnosed". They are concerned that the word is cumbersome, and that it might be misunderstood to mean "the ability



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## MEANWHILE IN VIENNA

Why should Moscow be prepared to resume talks on reducing conventional forces in Central Europe while refusing to discuss dates for reopening East-West negotiations on nuclear missiles? Western foreign ministers received the impression from their meetings in Stockholm with their Soviet counterparts Mr Andrei Gromyko that as early as March the Nato and Warsaw Pact representatives could gather again in Vienna for the eleventh year of Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks.

No clear explanation can be expected from the Soviet delegation at Stockholm, which preserves Kremlin secrecy to the extent that one of its members, Mr Igor Andropov, cannot give a straightforward reply to enquiries about his father's health. The installation of new Soviet missiles in Czechoslovakia and East Germany is described by Moscow as a response to cruise and Pershing deployment in Western Europe. To resume discussions on intermediate range nuclear missiles or on strategic arms reductions too soon after ending last year's rounds in a demonstration of anger would not be the strong message which the Kremlin wishes to send Western governments and peace movements, especially in the months before the US elections.

The MBFR talks are different. Dealing with conventional weapons, they have attracted neither the publicity nor the protest demonstrations so frequently aroused by the more destructive nuclear arms. Since a decade of discussions has produced little progress, the Soviet leaders might expect to resume negotiation without feeling obliged to budge from their earlier intransigence. They would yield nothing, but hope to avoid criticism for refusing to continue any disarmament talks at a time of dangerously mounting tensions.

Soviet anger is directed mainly at Washington, while the MBFR talks are on a block-to-block basis. Moscow repeatedly tries to encourage the notion that the Reagan administration is the main obstacle to relaxing tensions, and therefore takes a different approach to conferences involving US allies. The Nato participants are West Germany, Britain, Canada and the Benelux countries as well as the United States. The Warsaw Pact is represented by the USSR, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland; other members of the two blocks have observer status.

Nato proposed negotiations on mutual force reductions in 1968, but the invasion of

Czechoslovakia postponed the start of talks until 1973. The Warsaw Pact forces in Central Europe greatly outnumber those of Nato; in tanks, for example, the ratio is five to two. Both sides have agreed to reduce their troops to 900,000 but the West insists that the Warsaw Pact undertakes its numbers in Central Europe by some 150,000. Moscow refuses to agree to the verification measures needed to ensure balanced reductions. Nato has the additional disadvantage that American reinforcements have much further to travel than those from the USSR.

Past proposals and counter-proposals have not provided any grounds for expecting a major breakthrough should MBFR be resumed soon. Yet a forum which in the words of its declared aims, could contribute "towards a more stable relationship and to strengthening peace and security" cannot be dismissed as unimportant. Impressions that Moscow is willing to resume MBFR negotiations are not enough to signify an improvement in East-West relations. For the Soviet commitment to peace to be taken seriously Mr Gromyko should propose dates for returning to all the disarmament tables at Vienna and Geneva.

## KEYNES, NOT ROBIN HOOD

The relief of poverty, or its reduction, is seldom achieved by the redistribution of wealth. They are not one and the same concept, but the distinction between them has become blurred in the egalitarian mind, with unfortunate consequences. One of those consequences has been the Queen's Christmas broadcast, the criticism of which has now been brought into the open by Mr Enoch Powell. But, constitutional niceties notwithstanding, it is easy to see how the Queen, in suggesting that the so-called "gap" between rich and poor countries should be narrowed by Commonwealth action, had assumed she was merely uttering sentiments which have become a commonplace. In fact, commonplace or not, the idea that the poor can be more than temporarily relieved of their poverty by a direct transfer of wealth from the better off is fundamentally incorrect. It has given rise to a basic confusion in people's thinking, between the natural desire to help the relief of poverty, or reduce it permanently by enabling individuals to take part in greater economic activity, and the false belief that the redistribution of wealth from rich to poor is the best way to bring that about.

This egalitarian view is now so widespread that it would be natural, though unfortunate, for the Queen to have absorbed it intact, coming into contact as she does with so many representatives of the Third World and of the aid lobbies, whose stock in trade it is. It is based on a false hypothesis, that the equality of opportunity automatically leads individuals to equality of income, or that it should do so if it does not. It is based on a wholly materialist view of mankind, in which an individual becomes a statistical norm, capable only of behaving according to prescription. It ignores the fact that we are not all the same except for differences in material circumstances. If people were assumed to be equally endowed with motivation about their economic circumstances how could one explain the wide disparities in achievement? The answer which egalitarians give, on both a

national and global basis, is that some malevolent force must be at work. If the reality of the market place does not accord with the norm that the egalitarian mind wishes to impose on it, some other reason has to be found.

It is but a short walk from this point to the proposition that income differences offend some notion of social justice. Natural differences in personality and achievement then become inequalities. The word "inequality" suggests a moral dimension to what would otherwise be natural economic diversity. Once it is accepted that economic differences offend some moral code, it becomes morally permissible to attempt to eliminate them, even in defiance of market forces, by coercive methods involving the transfer of wealth, so that productive and economically active people are penalised while those who are not are favoured. This tends to happen regardless of the need to study how and why such differences occur.

Those differences occur because economic differences in income and wealth are legion, but basically because people operating in a free and open market will inevitably reach different levels of achievement. The natural desire to help those afflicted by poverty is then often impeded by contagion with the idea that poverty is inherently good and that wealth is inherently bad. In fact the accumulation of wealth by economically active individuals nearly always helps to extend the choice of many others. It was Keynes, no less, who observed that an individual was much better employed channelling his energies into making money than to other outlets either of cruelty or the reckless pursuit of power and authority.

Once it is accepted that wealth is in some sense improper, it becomes easy to merge the desire to help the poor with the determination to deprive the better-off of their wealth.

There is an even more pertinent and practical fallacy behind the idea of redistribution of the social good. That is to suggest that there is such a thing as a

total pool of wealth which can be parcelled out in shares by some supernumerary authority. In a market economy production and distribution of income are dynamic parts of the same process. The introduction of the concept of redistribution into that process involves distortions which end up as controls, rigidities, monopolies and the concentration of economic power in governments, none of which assist the temporary - let alone the permanent - relief of poverty.

You can thus level down, but never equalise. The apostles of income redistribution, both on a national and international scale, are arguing for a transfer of wealth not because it will help the poor, which it will not, but because such a process accords with their obsession with statistical averages. The leaders of the Third World, of course, have so little experience of a free and open society, operating more closely to market principles, that the idea of economic achievement is inevitably confined to the performance of governments operating a centrally controlled economy in which the market system only peeps through by the workings of corruption. The transfer of wealth demanded by those governments seldom reaches through to the poorest members of their societies, while at the same time it deprives the wealth creating element in the world of some of its motivation. There is little evidence to suggest, in any economy, that the poor become richer when the rich are made poorer.

If the egalitarians really have the interest of the poor at heart, they would not argue for a transfer of funds from the rich to the poor, but for the freedom of the market to operate in all the centralised controlled and corrupted economies of the world - developed and undeveloped - so that mankind in its infinite variety could take what advantages it chose of the many opportunities which confronted it. That would have been a more controversial message for the Queen to have directed to the Commonwealth but it would have spoken direct to the individual rather than the statisticians.

## ISLAM OPENS THE DOOR

The decision of the Muslim heads of state to invite Egypt to resume her place in the Organization of the Islamic Conference should be welcomed, both as a small but significant step towards peace in the Middle East and as a victory for the forces of reason and moderation, broadly favourable though not (as their enemies would claim) subservient to Western interests, within the Islamic world. But it should not give rise to any complacency, either in Israel or in the West.

The immediate, but not the most important, question is whether the invitation will be taken up. Egypt has rightly refused to plead or bargain for readmission, and made it clear that she would not accept any conditions. The record of the five years since Camp David gives a kind of negative proof, conclusive as any positive proof that Gamal Abdul Nasser could adduce in his lifetime, of Egypt's adduct in both the Arab and the Islamic worlds. While many Arabs and Muslims would blame Anwar Sadat for the weakness

and disinclination they have shown in this period, it is quite clear that they are not strong enough either to do without Egypt or to compel Egypt to undo Sadat's work by tearing up the peace treaty with Israel. If there was a price to be paid by Egypt for her return to Arab and Islamic legitimacy it has already been paid, tragically and symbolically, with the human sacrifice of Sadat himself.

But a delegation has been sent to seek a pledge that Egypt will "adhere to the principles, rules and decisions" of the organization, and it remains to be seen whether Egypt will treat this as an attempt to impose conditions. If it is merely a question of endorsing the Fez Middle East peace plan, that should not pose a problem, since Egyptian comment on it at the time was that it constituted an unexpected statement of Arab objectives - in particular the recovery of East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state - but not a strategy for attaining those objectives. There

seems no reason why Egypt should not formally reiterate that view, so long as it is not presented as a condition.

The reason one should not be complacent is that those who took the decision in Casablanca, while they may be said to represent the party in power in the Islamic world - an Islamic conservative or traditionalist party - are not (with the honourable exception of the Malaysian government) freely elected leaders and in many cases are not representative of popular feeling in their countries. The opposition most of them fear most is not that of radical nationalists like the leaders of Syria, Libya and South Yemen, but that of revolutionary Islamic fundamentalists like - even if not exactly like - Ayatollah Khomeini. "The conferences which are held in the name of Islam," the Ayatollah once said, "in reality do not have any Islamic objective." Sure enough, Iran boycotted this one. But the moderates and conservatives who dominated it remain acutely vulnerable to his attacks.

## Hospital service with profit

From Mr Stanley Rivlin

Sir, It grieves me very much to have to cross swords with my friend and colleague, Oliver Rowell (report, January 16), particularly as the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, of which he is general manager, did so much to foster and maintain standards in private medicine following the inception of the NHS. Indeed, it could be said that without the help of his organisation private practice might have withered away in the 1950s.

Sadly, however, in my view, in recent years, in London at any rate, the NNHT has lagged behind its "profit-motivated" rivals in the provision of expensive, high-technology facilities which form such an essential part of contemporary medicine today.

Unlike Mr Rowell, I have no financial axe to grind, for I do not have, nor have I ever had, any financial stake in an independent private hospital. But I cannot help feeling that some of Mr Rowell's structures may stem from the fact that the Nuffield hospitals are losing patients to this newer kind of private hospital, whose funding he so roundly castigates.

Mr Rowell condemns the "emerging new consultant" for preferring to invest in a private hospital whose management and standards he can influence, to his patients' advantage, rather than to donate funds to a hospital built by the NNHT, over whose standards he has no control whatsoever and which offers him no privileges in exchange for his donation, either in the allocation of beds or in the provision of particular materials his specialty may require.

I myself have contributed funds to the NNHT (and persuaded my friends to do so) for many years; I do so no longer. Today, in London, I find the service one receives from the independent hospitals, where the profit motive plays its part, to be far happier and helpful.

It is well worth pointing out that many of our famous private hospitals, e.g., the London Clinic, were originally founded and funded by members of the medical profession seeking to establish institutions with the highest possible standards, whilst a number of illustrious surgeons have personally owned hospitals in which they practise. Why does Mr Rowell consider this to be so heinous?

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY RIVLIN,  
3 Upper Harley Street, NW1,  
January 16.

## Cost of Sizewell

From Professor J. W. Jeffery

Sir, Mr Baker (January 13) queries the accuracy of your report ("Sizewell inquiry's second year", January 2) apparently for suggesting that something might have changed as a result of the inquiry's first year's work. May I draw attention to some of the things which have happened in that year.

In the first place the inquiry itself has placed on record a great deal of evidence from objectors which the Central Electricity Generating Board, employing two eminent QC's, has had full opportunity to challenge in cross-examination. This has enabled figures which the CEBG would have preferred to remain hidden, such as the real cost overruns of the four advanced gas-cooled reactors (some four, three, two and 1½ times the original estimates) to be substantiated by the inquiry.

Mr Baker invites us to believe that, while Dungeness B has cost four times its original estimate in constant prices, Sizewell B, if it were built, would not have any cost overrun.

CEBG's protected coal costs have also been shown to be quite unrealistic. If the understanding which the NCB is expected to 1990, the cost of marginal coal assumed in the CEBG's statement of case for Sizewell B will then be 40 per cent above the actual cost. With reasonable projections of future coal prices not even its central case will be economic.

It is time CEBG gave up its obsession with nuclear power and the pressurized water reactor in particular.

Yours etc,  
J. W. JEFFERY,  
Department of Crystallography,  
Birkbeck College,  
Maler Street, WC1,  
January 19.

## Museum charges

From Mr P. M. Netscher

Sir, As a former warden at Greenwich's Maritime Museum I appreciated fully the points made in your leading article today (January 14) about the decision to impose entry charges.

A few years ago, in the Queen's House, a small boy asked me if anyone famous had lived there. I recited off a few names and, with shining eyes, he turned to his equally small companion, saying: "Fancy, kings have walked along here!" Resting his fingers lightly on the balustrade, he seemed to grow six inches, at least as tall as Charles I, and walked as serenely into history.

Well, that is a true story, and it would be a pity if his like were to be discouraged. Many of the hundreds of all ages who find recreation in Greenwich Park use the museum as a rain shelter and thereby discover hidden delights by accident. Would it be prudent to allocate part of the museum as "free entry", enticing visitors to pay for more next time?

Yours sincerely,  
P. M. NETSCHER,  
c/o 159 Humber Road,  
Blackheath, SE3.

Correspondents are advised that letters posted for this page are not being delivered because of an industrial dispute involving clerical members of Sogat '82.

## Tangled skeins in Central America

From Mr John Brooks

Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's analysis of the Kissinger report on Central America (feature, January 10) seems to bear little relationship to the summary of the report that appeared in your columns yesterday (January 12) and to the drift of your editorial today (January 13).

No one would quarrel with the assessment that communist governments in Central America would represent a serious threat to the security of the USA and therefore to the free world. However, the Central American security problem is infinitely more complex than Sir Alfred Sherman or you, Sir, seem to allow.

The weakness of the US position in Central America is that for over 30 years successive Administrations have appeared to accept right-wing regimes as partners in their struggle against communism and as worthy apostles of the market economy. This means that opponents of such regimes find it very easy to reject US political and economic prescriptions, because the reality in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua is that such prescriptions are very quickly adulterated.

Incidentally, so superficial is Sir Alfred Sherman's analysis that he does not even mention Costa Rica, the region's only free democracy, leaving his less knowledgeable readers with the erroneous impression that the only choice throughout Central America is between US-supported military dictatorships and Soviet-sponsored peoples' democracies.

Other statements by Sir Alfred Sherman must be challenged. The damage caused to Central American economies which has led to the present discontents was primarily the result of the oil crises in the

1970s, not of the actions of the US or UK governments: indeed, British influence in the region has been minimal for decades.

Most important, Sir Alfred Sherman appears not to be able to conceive that right-wing dictatorships arose in opposition to the point that many people prefer the benefits of communism to offer - Cuba and Nicaragua have both experienced, for instance, great advances in health care and educational provision - to the total lack of benefits accruing to them from right-wing dictatorial governments.

When he talks about "political collapse calculated to usher in still worse regimes, as in Cuba and Nicaragua..." he invites the question, "worse for whom?" Western commentators should always remember that political freedoms and constitutional rights are hollow abstractions if not accompanied by a sufficiency of food, clothing, shelter, health care and educational opportunity.

The economic aid recommendations of the Kissinger Commission, almost ignored by Sir Alfred Sherman and somewhat understated in your editorial, are of cardinal importance. The US has to prove that it is concerned to bring real prosperity and real freedom to Central America, with benefits for the ordinary people comparable to those provided in Cuba and Nicaragua, and not just ingratiate itself with the existing ruling groups in an anti-communist crusade that, on present policies, is ultimately bound to lose.

Throwing guns at a problem is likely to be less successful, in the long run, than throwing money at it.

Yours very truly,  
JOHN BROOKS,  
3 Engel Park, NW7,  
January 13.

## Learning for life

From Mr M. C. Jacoby

Sir, I very much hope that Mrs Ainsworth (January 12) does not actually believe that what teachers know is directly connected to their ability to teach.

A year ago I resigned from a comprehensive school in disgust at the collapse of discipline and morale. I also resigned from the teaching profession, after 18 years in it, in disgust at the widespread confusion Mrs Ainsworth so clearly expresses.

Society is obsessed with examinations, the vast bulk of which are based upon the recall of information. Who needs to have stored in his mind the dates of certain battles, the properties of matrices or the names of the enzymes of the duodenum? True, the exercise of memory is important training, but let it be taken upon material that is relevant to the modern world.

The very division of what children have to learn in school into subjects - English, history, mathematics etc - is entirely foreign to everyday experience and also directly militates against lateral thinking. Pupils are required to learn sweeping generalizations which are then briefly illustrated with selected examples.

## Catholics in China

From Mr P. G. Andrews

Sir, Yet again, a failure to distinguish between the spiritual and temporal spheres leads to confusion. Pace your correspondent Mr Bonavia (report, December 20) and your correspondent Canon Crozier (January 5), it is not the Vatican's relationship with the Catholic Church on Taiwan that is the obstacle to Vatican relations with Peking: the problem is the Vatican's continuing recognition of the claim by the political party ruling Taiwan to be the legitimate government of China.

The distinction between church and state is particularly important in this context, because the problems of the Catholic Church on the Chinese mainland are due to the Communist Party's attempts to impose on the Church a degree of state control that Rome found unacceptable.

In view of the enormous changes that have taken place in the attitudes of both Rome and Peking since the cold-war years of the 1950s, it should now be possible for the two sides to find a *modus vivendi*.

There is no reason why any agreement should leave Taiwan's Catholics any less free than they are now to practise their religion; a withdrawal of diplomatic recognition from the Kuomintang involves no de-recognition of the Catholics on Taiwan.

It will certainly be quite impossible for Rome to make any progress towards solving the immense prob-

lems of mainland Catholics so long as it continues to proclaim open enmity to Peking by giving diplomatic recognition to, and by inference telling Catholics to support, a political party which is pledged to overthrow the People's Republic and is prepared to use force to that end.

Is it not a scandal that a church should thus allow a purely political matter to hinder its spiritual mission?

Yours etc,  
P. G. ANDREWS,  
41 Lower Elmstone Drive,  
Titchhurst,  
Reading,  
Berkshire,  
January 8.

## Black culture

From Mr Duncan Wallace

Sir, Dr Scruton (feature, January 17) appears to have overlooked the rich cultural contribution made by Afro-Asian culture to our own. Instead of setting reggae music against Shakespeare he could have mentioned V. S. Naipaul.

He fails to mention the development of the English language, observed in your own columns, to be found in authors such as R. K. Narayan and Salman Rushdie, or the growing volume of African literature written in English.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN WALLACE,  
51 Newpounds Avenue,  
Radlett,  
Hertfordshire,  
January 19.

## Local democracy

From the Deputy Leader of South Yorkshire County Council

Sir, Lord Boyd-Carpenter's letter of January 9 contains a contempt for the whole concept of local democracy, a trend of thinking now becoming all too common amongst the Conservative parliamentarians. The argument runs that local government has no real democratic legitimacy because not all the voters pay rates and only a limited percentage of the rates is paid by the domestic ratepayer.

Ignoring the fact that the present Government have failed to produce, as promised, an alternative local tax which would be more clearly accountable than rates, it is wrong to argue that the industrial and commercial ratepayer is disfranchised.

Every member of the board of directors, the management and the workforce has a vote in the local elections if they live in the council's

area. If, however, the company or firm is seen purely as the personification of its chairman or owner, then local democratic elections like parliamentary elections quite rightly do not give him or her any special privileges.

Is this constant harping on the electoral plight of the business ratepayer preparing the way for a formula to return to a pre-1867 or even 1832 position where "interests" were represented on councils or in Parliament rather than people? Furthermore, although one would welcome a closer link between local taxation and local elections, are some Conservatives attempting to establish the intellectual ground for a reversion to a system of no representation without taxation?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CORNWELL,  
Deputy Leader,  
South Yorkshire County Council,  
County Hall,  
Barnsley,  
South Yorkshire,  
January 9.

## Maintenance cut for former wives

From Councillor Mrs Janet Todd and others

Sir, We view with concern the passage of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill through the House of Lords, where it will shortly reach the report stage.

Considerable publicity has been given to the debate on whether petitions for divorce should normally be allowed after one year rather than three. Much less attention has been paid to the arguments against the reduced maintenance for former wives which the Bill envisages.

It is not our experience - and we have all been concerned with the education of young women of marriageable age - that women regard marriage as a "meal ticket for life" or want to become "alimony drones" - expressions frequently used by supporters of the Bill. Moreover, such research as has been done on the subject, for example by Mrs Mavis Maclean and Mr John Eckelker, to which the Lord Chancellor's department itself refers enquires, confirms our view.

It would be very unfortunate if the law were changed to the detriment of a majority of former wives in order to penalise a small minority.

The fact is that very many wives do irretrievable damage to their career prospects in order to care for their growing families or to move with their husbands in furtherance of their husbands' careers, rather than making money or promotion their main aim. In a few years, therefore, the market value of their skills becomes minimal in comparison with their husbands'.

If the Bill becomes law the first consideration for maintenance will cease to be the continuance of the family's living standards, which the law at present protects, and will become the welfare of the dependent children. However important the welfare of the children, the mother who has been the mainstay of the family should also be given some mention in this clause.

The very fact that the 1973 Act has created anomalies should make it all the more important to make sure that future legislation does not in its turn create anomalies of a different kind. The Law Commission has itself suggested that a programme of research in depth into the problems of maintenance is needed. This should be done before piecemeal changes in the law are made.

A Royal Commission on Divorce, suggested in 1981 by the Society of Conservative Lawyers, would consider divorce and maintenance together and may well be the long-term answer.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET TODD,  
BARBARA M. FRANKS,  
HELEN OPPENHEIMER,  
RACHEL TRICKEIT,  
Foxton Lodge,  
Foxton Close,  
Oxford,  
January 20.

## Fate of Temple Bar

From Sir Martyn Beckett

Sir, I fear it is wishful thinking for Gavin Stamp (feature, January 19) to advise leaving Temple Bar where it is in Hertfordshire to "rest in peace". Despite the Temple Bar trustees and the Meux trustees erecting a 10ft high barbed wire and chain link fence at a cost of £3,675 to protect it, vandals have breached it several times, the stonework has been covered in graffiti and mutilated. To leave it in situ is to sign its death warrant.

The figure suggested of £50,000 would not nearly cover the cost of re-roofing, consolidation and providing premises for a custodian on its present site.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTYN BECKETT,  
3 St Albans Grove, W8,  
January 19.

## Superfluous characters

From Mr Erik Gunnemark

Sir, Under the headline "Chinese women fail test of literacy" in your December 20 issue there is a statement that is misleading, to say the least: "The Chinese language, using tens of thousands of characters..."

It is true that the eighteenth-century "Kangxi dictionary" contained about 50,000 characters, but even then most of them were either unnecessary variants or completely obsolete. The largest dictionaries, completed in recent years have some 8,000 characters; however, few people learn as many as 4,000 and for most purposes it is enough to know 1,500 to 2,000.

I guess that Chinese women now described as semi-literate know 600 to 1,000 characters. In Communist China only those knowing less than 300 characters have been called *xiazi* ("blind persons"). I.e., illiterate.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIK GUNNEMARK,  
Valastagen 42C,  
Gothenburg, Sweden,  
January 6.

## Abuse of language

From Miss Brigid Brophy

Sir, Before he sets out to reform the schooling system, would Sir Keith Joseph consider the education of the Civil Service? Seeking information that writers need, I have lately been in correspondence with the Office of Arts and Libraries.

Today I have had a letter from the Head of Library and Information Services. Besides inventing an adverb ("publicly") it tells me something "must mitigate against" something else.

Yours truly,  
BRIGID BROPHY,  
Flat 3,  
185 Old Brompton Road, SW5,  
January 12.







THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Of Chancellors and official charlatans

Only charlatans pretend to know the future. Mr Nigel Lawson the Chancellor told Liverpool businessmen at the weekend. The bunch of officials employed as charlatans to the Treasury will this week present him with their new forecast of our economic future. On this foundation the final structure of his first Budget will be laid.

Now, Budgets are not what they were. With a public strategy rolling forward three or four years, the Government has little annual room for manoeuvre - and most of that is taken up by the elbows of spending ministers in the autumn, when most of the important budgetary decisions are taken. But it takes years for poor old Parliament to notice that the Chancellor is running largely on auto-pilot after Christmas, and the cameras of press and television continue to celebrate the Budget as the birthday of the economic year.

And this year, indeed, the Budget is something special. For a start, it is Chancellor Lawson's first big date with the House of Commons, a tricky occasion. So far they have not got on well together, and backbencher who tasted red meat in the shape of the Environment Secretary last week will be licking their lips for a nibble of Chancellor.

More seriously, it is in this Budget that Mr Lawson will be called upon to make two fairly big statements about the future. He has to unveil a new monetary framework which is compatible both with his declared aim of eventual price stability and with the prospect of eventual tax cuts. That must set the course for the lifetime of this Parliament. But he ought to plunge deeper into the future than that, tackling the issue of public spending trends and publishing projections for a decade ahead.

If the Chancellor does not, policy will run into the sand. He will only be able to satisfy those who still press him about the public sector deficit by ratcheting taxation higher and higher. He will only be able to satisfy those who demand tax cuts by throwing more and more public assets into the hole in public accounts. And he will be fire-fighting public spending from year to year in a way that satisfies no more, meeting out rough justice to ministers according to their political muscle without making a significant impact on the total.

A preference for dark hints about public spending, rather than open debate, stems from a natural political reluctance to show the gap between hope and fear, policy and expectation, about the economy. Long-term projections must, for example, contain assumptions about wages. Wages tend to rise faster than prices, and it would be cautious to assume they go on doing so in costing public spending. But there, at the same time, is Mr Lawson urging cuts in the real level of wages to stimulate employment. Why publish a contradictory source of embarrassment?

The sensible way out is to publish a series of alternative projections: one, for example, showing what would happen to costs and national resources if wages rise by, say, a real three per cent a year - and another portraying a world in which people in work obey Mr Lawson and try to price others back into jobs.

These spending projections should be published in the form they are presented to ministers: as a dilemma. All forecasts and forecasts can do, in the end, is

puncture wishful thinking. Economic models are better than backs of envelopes for explaining that if A happens, B probably won't; and yes, Chancellor, if you aim for X you are likely to get Y as well. For the dim future, anyone who promises a simpler view than this is a charlatan. Mr Lawson should follow his own logic, and publish a range of projections.

But there is a shorter time-frame over which forecasts, Chancellors foremost among them, are required to do more. They have to publish a single view of the near future - an unconditional print-out from the crystal ball. The one-year forecast of output, employment and inflation on which the Budget is based is a serious test of the Government's economic sense.

Over the past few years the Treasury has proved quite acceptable good at forecasting output and inflation, and is more than a little smug that prognostications of ever-deepening recession were disproved. But it has proved very bad at forecasting employment and the fate of manufacturing, and it is the big question mark over the two of these that should pierce its smugness about the future.

Retail sales rose 6 per cent in the year to the last quarter of 1983, the nearest comparable figures for Britain's industrial production only 3 per cent. In other words, Britain's recovery came on in the same old way, and British industry met it in the same old way: with too little, too late.

Imports poured in; Britain registered its first deficit on manufactured trade. Well, the statistics are one culprit. Figures for manufacturing output and retail sales give the worst possible picture of Britain. Overall output, including services, and overall spending, show a much narrower gap between what we buy and what we sell. Secondly, there is clearly something pessimistically wrong with the industrial production figure, as the wide gap between the different measures of GNP show.

For the manufacturing trade deficit, there are foreigners to blame: demand grew little, in Europe, now Britain's main market, last year. Things do look better for 1984. At home, the weak response of producers may be a good sign of investment to come.

But the Treasury does not, it seems, expect the manufacturing trade deficit to be reversed this year. There is a danger that, yet again, boomtimes will be over in the shops before British industry has got round to doing anything serious about it.

All of which suggests the Government has done too little to energize enterprise and improve the functioning of the market system. That does not mean it should embark on another raft of small business measures of the kind that, for good or ill, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former Chancellor used to pad out his Budgets. It means a medium-term industrial embracing competition policy, labour mobility, grants and taxation. Much of that is not the Chancellor's job, but is in the hands of Mr Norman Tebbit at the Department of Trade and Industry. It will be an interesting test of a politician who does not lack free-market conviction - or ambition.

**Sarah Hogg**  
Economics Editor

# Nigeria close to agreement on £2.8bn debt rescheduling

By Wayne Lintott and John Lawless

Negotiations between Nigeria and its main British trade creditors resume in London today, and they are expected to conclude a rescheduling of \$4 billion (£2.8 billion) of Nigerian debts.

The Nigerian delegation is being led by Mr Alhaji Abubakar Aliji, permanent secretary at the finance ministry and Mr Abdelkadir Ahmed, governor of the Nigerian central bank.

They are meeting officials of the British Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and representatives of the British companies and banks involved in Nigeria's trade debts with Britain.

Payments on a total of \$5 billion are outstanding. Nigeria is seeking to reschedule the majority of those debts into a

six-year loan after a request, last month, for a 10-year loan was refused.

Unofficial talks are said to have established a compromise proposal that would allow Nigeria a possible grace period of up to 21/2 years before regular debt repayments began.

Britain accounts for 20 per cent of Nigeria's overseas trade and is keen to sustain those business links. The ECGD has insured £800m of the total outstanding and British companies, with uninsured liabilities, are seeking some form of promissory notes backed by the Nigerian central bank.

The ECGD has already taken action against the Nigerians. It is delaying the processing of new applications for insurance cover on trade agreements and

is refusing to give medium-term cover on any capital projects while the talks take place.

Those talks are closely aligned to Nigeria's success in gaining help from the International Monetary Fund, which has been asked for preliminary backing of £1 billion. But failure to agree on the stiff requirements proposed by the IMF, not least the substantial devaluation of the Naira, has caused a postponement until the middle of next month.

General Buhari said that the new government needed time to brief the new finance minister, Mr Onagapo Sioeye. While Nigeria has hinted that it may be prepared to accept a devaluation, the strong local pressure against such a move. Nigeria's biggest problem is a

lack of hard currency, rather than an unwillingness to pay. The sharp drop in oil revenues, which account for 90 per cent of its foreign exchange, has created a chronic shortage of hard currency. Many small British exporters have been paid locally but are unable to repatriate those funds.

Mr Sioeye announced that it has settled financial problems with almost all the international companies working on about 800 development projects in the country, according to first deputy prime minister, Mr Yassir Ramadan. He said that all but one unnamed company had agreed to fulfil their commitments under a newly arranged deferred payment system.

# Sealink sale 'is still on'

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that its plans to privatise British Rail's Sealink channel ferries in the current financial year going ahead despite reports that it had been postponed for a year.

The DTI denied that plans for any form of "action" had been considered, despite the buying interest expressed by Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation and European Ferries, operators of the Townsend Thoresen ferries.

Sealink is currently trading at a profit, after many years of substantial deficits and the directors had reportedly asked the Government to delay privatisation plans for another year to enable them to establish a more solid trading record.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 826.9 up 18.8  
FT 100: 82.85 down 0.48  
FT All Share: 499.55 up 8.74  
Bargains: 30.465  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 103.5 up 1.73  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1259.11 down 12.77  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,104.07 down 46.9  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1034.00 up 58.53

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON**  
Sterling \$1.4015 down 65pts  
Index \$1.8 down 0.3  
DM 3.9575 down 0.0050  
FF 12.0925 down 0.0225  
Yen 328.50 down 0.5  
Dollar index 131.8 up 0.2  
DM 2.8205 down 0.0085

**NEW YORK**  
Dollars \$1.4022  
Sterling DM 2.8192

**INTERNATIONAL**  
ECU 20.568976  
SDR 20.731667

## INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates:**  
Bank base rate 9%  
Finance houses base rate 9%  
Discount market loans week fixed 9-8/8  
3 month interbank 9/2-9/8

**Euro-currency rates:**  
3 month dollar 9 1/8-9 1/8  
3 month DM 6 1/4-5 1/4  
3 month Fr 13 1/4-13 1/4

**ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV**  
Average reference rate for interest period December 7, 1983 to January 3, 1984 inclusive: 9.492 per cent.

## GOLD

**London fixed (per ounce):**  
Am \$372.75 pm \$371.25  
close \$370.25-371.00 (\$263.75-264.25)  
New York \$372.00  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$381.5-383.00 (\$272-273)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$87-88 (\$62-62.75)  
\*Excludes VAT

# 'Mirror' in search of editorial safeguards

By Philip Robinson

Plans for a new type of management structure to preserve the independence, integrity and political stance of the Daily Mirror group of newspapers is being considered by management and unions.

The guarantee of editorial independence is thought necessary because Reed International, which owns the Mirror Group, intends to float it on the Stock Exchange this spring. The Mirror Group publishes the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People and Sporting Life in England and the Daily Record and Sunday Mail in Scotland.

Reed, which has wanted to sell the Mirror Group for some time, is taking advantage of its entitlement to a 7.8 per cent stake in Reuters, the international news agency and business information system, which itself is to be floated on the Stock Exchange this year. Reuters could be worth between £1 billion to £1.5 billion.

By selling their shares to investors both organizations effectively give up the right to guarantee future ownership.

Reuters is already looking at ways to safeguard the agency's integrity. Now the Mirror Group, headed by Mr Clive Thornton, former chief executive of the Abbey National Building Society, is examining its own proposals.

Today, Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, formally lodges his special private member's call for a debate on the flotation of Reuters. He is calling on the Government to intervene in the flotation which he says is merely an opportunity to "enrich and entrench the unrepresentative ownership of the British press".

Mirror Group's proposals will not include the setting up of a board of national directors who would be charged with the responsibility of safeguarding editorial freedom and independence.

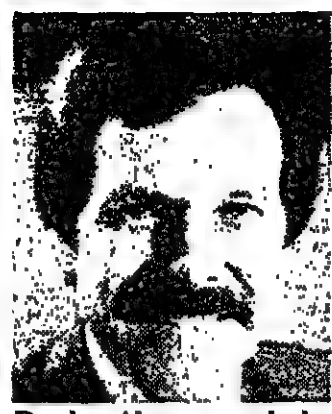
# GEC launches software arm

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

GEC is mounting a major assault on the rapidly growing computer software market. A company called GEC Software has been formed, and is being launched formally today.

The company is not prepared to say how much is being sunk in the software enterprise. But a back-of-an-envelope sum based on the fact that the firm is taking over 6,500 sq ft of office space in Long Acre in London, installing a new GEC Series 43 microcomputer, together with a powerful computer system known as the VAX 11/780, and planning to have 50 experienced software engineers by the end of the year adds up to running costs of about £2m a year.

The size of the software market is no doubt. Since software costing more than half of the total price of installing an operating a computer, the amount spent a year in Britain alone is over £2,000m. Probably



Derek Alway: producing tools of competition

about 15 per cent of that is accounted for by the specialist software groups.

The first clue to the size of the action in which GEC is interested is revealed by the fact that the prospectus refers to the company's activity as software engineering. Mr Derek Alway, its managing director, says, "We

see ourselves as software equivalent to the machinetool industry, producing tools which companies will need in order to stay competitive".

The second clue is from Dr Anthony Callaway, the technical director who was formerly the head of airborne computing systems at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He says: "GEC Software has been created to provide the tools needed to combat the software crisis". That is reflected in the enormous penalty of resolving errors which bedevils many organizations because software is of a poor quality, he says.

The new company is not planning to produce the mundane software packages for specific applications such as processing payroll, word processing of letters and company reports. It is aiming at a much higher technical level.

# Europe awaits as Congress returns

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US Congress reconvenes today for a marathon election year session in which it will consider economic issues of particular importance to Europe, including the overvalued dollar and a fresh set of controversial export controls.

The debate over the budget the President will submit to Congress on February 1 - and the huge deficit it projects - is expected to trigger a series of legislative proposals to manage the dollar better.

Concern is growing on Capitol Hill at the erratic path of the dollar, which could precipitate a new economic crisis if steps are not taken now to prevent dramatic fluctuations. Mr Charles Mathias, an influential Republican Senator from Maryland, reflected the concern on Saturday in a speech in which he said: "As we enter 1984, there is a real danger that the deficit crisis could turn into a dollar crisis, complete with a financial panic, rekindled US inflation and soaring interest rates."

# Rolls set to receive £113m aid

By Frances Williams  
Economics Correspondent

Ministers are expected to give the go-ahead shortly for £113m of government aid to support Rolls-Royce's participation in the five-nation V-2500 engine project.

However, state backing for British Aerospace's stake in the Airbus A-320, a potential customer for the V-2500, remains in the balance. The Prime Minister and the Treasury have yet to be convinced that the Airbus will provide an adequate return on the £640m BAe expects to spend, £400m of which it wants to borrow.

The Cabinet is likely to take a decision on both projects in the next couple of weeks. Ministers appear to have been convinced that the V-2500 engine, in which Rolls-Royce has a 30 per cent stake, will have a ready market when the first models come off the production lines in December 1987.

The go-ahead for the V-2500 engine, in which Rolls-Royce has a 30 per cent stake, will have a ready market when the first models come off the production lines in December 1987.

ORDINARY SHARES BY PETER RICE

# The insurance star still rising

The long drawn-out battle for Eagle Star - the biggest takeover in British history - has focused investors' attention on composite insurance shares. The recent 15 per cent jump in the price of Phoenix Assurance proves that takeover fever is still running high. Yet, for the last few years, the sector has been a dull stock market performer. Why should it now be so attractive to predators and how can the ordinary investor benefit from this situation?

Composite insurance companies invest very large sums of money on world stock markets, not only their own shareholders' funds but also policyholders' funds: money received in premium income or awaiting payment on claims. The strength of stock markets worldwide has meant that the composites' own assets - total funds less what is needed to meet liabilities to policyholders - have risen very sharply. Ironically, these large capital gains are not reflected in the companies' profit and loss accounts.

Under current accounting conventions, reported profits are made up from underwriting (what they pay out in claims in relation to what they receive in premium income), investment income and profits from their life assurance operations. Soaring underwriting losses have depressed reported profits, with the result that share prices have not taken into account the increase in composite net asset values.

As the table shows, the shares of big companies such as Royal Insurance and Commercial Union are selling at little more than half their basic worth. It is not surprising that predators have become interested in such heavily undervalued assets.

However, investing in shares in expectation of a takeover is notoriously risky. Can composite insurance

DISCOUNTS TO NET ASSET VALUE			
	Est net asset value (£)	Price (£)	Discount to NAV (%)
CU	374	193	48
Gen Acc	753	483	36
GRE	695	522	25
Phoenix	807	450	44
Royal	983	530	46
SA & L	2552	1487	42

COMPOSITE SECTOR PROFITS £m			
	1982	1983 (forecast)	1984 (forecast)
Aggregate profits for Gen Acc, GRE, Phoenix, Royal, Sun All & Lon.	343	433	578

have any confidence that prices will not collapse relative to general market levels, if takeovers fail to materialize? In my opinion, the answer is yes.

Composite company profits should rise strongly over the next two to three years. The table shows that sector profits are forecast almost to double over 1983-5, having declined since 1979. While investment income and life profits tend to increase steadily, underwriting results are very volatile. Losses in recent years have soared alarmingly, due to a combination of economic recession and rate competition, brought on by surplus capacity (i.e. too much capital chasing too little business). The signs are that we are now at, or close to, the bottom of this underwriting cycle.

The cyclical nature of underwriting results arises because it is easy for capital to enter the insurance business: little physical infrastructure is required unlike, say, the oil and chemical industries. As a result, when underwriting results are good and the rate of return on capital is above average, more capital comes in to the business, competition develops and the

rate of return is depressed to the point where marginal capital is forced out and results again begin to improve.

In many territories, particularly the US which accounts for half of the world's premium income, we have reached the point where the return on capital in the insurance industry is now so low that companies will increasingly be forced to take corrective action by raising rates. For example, Commercial Union embarked on a very ambitious growth programme in the US some years ago, but has been compelled by huge losses to tighten up its underwriting standards to such an extent that premium income is now declining.

Pressure to increase rates will be heightened by tightening in the reinsurance markets. In recent years, reinsurers, themselves hungry for premium income, have lowered the prices they charged to primary insurers. This enabled the latter to be competitive, safe in the knowledge that they could pass on the risk and make a guaranteed profit. Now the reinsurers, concerned by the rising tide of claims, are insisting on more realistic rates.

Quite apart from developments in the insurance industry itself, the economic recovery presently under way, particularly in the US, will do a great deal to improve matters.

In addition to the prospect of strong profit growth, investors can also look forward to good dividend increases in this already high yielding sector, as managements attempt to build up shareholder loyalty in order to avoid the fate of Eagle Star.

Finally, which stocks should the investor consider? On grounds of size, Phoenix (market capitalization £275m) is perhaps the likeliest takeover candidate, but none of the others, from Sun Alliance &

London (market capitalization £374m) to Royal (market capitalization £1,000m) is safe from threat. In addition to Phoenix, Sun Alliance & London and Guardian Royal Exchange are the most probable candidates.

The geographical spread of the composites' operations is an important factor in assessing their prospects. Royal, Commercial Union and General Accident derive about 50 per cent of their premium income from North America, while Phoenix, GRE and Sun Alliance are more United Kingdom oriented. As North American results are particularly depressed, the former group is greater than the latter.

Buyers of the shares must however be prepared for continuing high underwriting losses in the short term. Commercial Union has the highest yield but is still suffering from the after-effects of an ill-judged dash for growth in the US. It represents an interesting speculation. Royal, after a disappointing 1983, offers a better balance of risk and reward. Ironically, General Accident is well placed in the US, but is underperforming in Britain.

Of the more British oriented companies, Phoenix looks expensive on fundamental grounds, as its price strongly reflects hopes of a bid. There is also an element of bid speculation in Sun Alliance's price, but the low yield is justified by the prospect of a substantial increase in the dividend in GRE has a very consistent record and is widely regarded as the best managed company in the sector. While Royal should be the choice of investors prepared to be patient, GRE is the most attractive if you are particularly averse to risk-taking.

Peter Rice is partner in charge of insurance research at stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie & Co.

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET BY GORDON PEPPER

# Timing at a very high premium

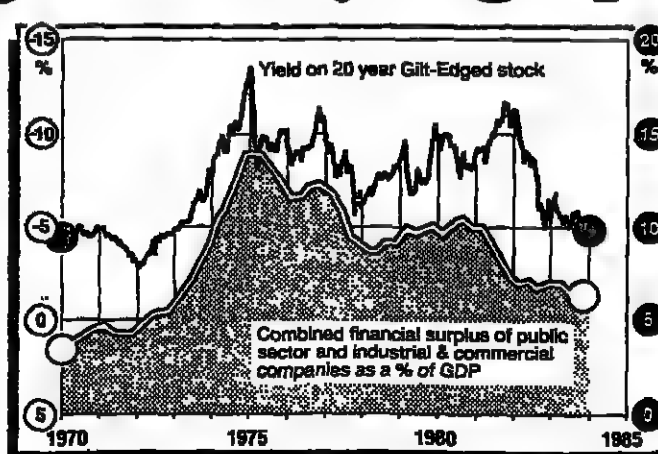
Throughout the last 30 years there has been a clear pattern of interest rates rising during upswings of the business cycle and declining during downturns.

The British economy is now at the point of the business cycle when, according to the patterns of the past, the bull market in gilt-edged securities ends and a cyclical bear market is in prospect. The correct upswing in the economy, however, is highly unusual and its characteristics are sufficient to require a radical modification of the conventional cyclical analysis of interest rates.

Three reasons may be given in support of the view that the current upswing is special. First, there has not been a major inflationary fiscal package. The behaviour of the economy is exactly the opposite of the famous prediction of the 364 Keynesian economists who, in March 1981, forecast deepening recession. While it is true that both the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) and public expenditure have recently overshot the official targets, the amount of fiscal stimulus has been insufficient to allow these economists to claim that this is the reason for the economic recovery.

The upswing has been consumer-led but the increase in expenditure has been caused by the fall in inflation rather than fiscal injections.

Secondly, a major reason for the steep recession in 1980 was a very severe financial squeeze of British industry. This led to substantial retrenchment by industry, taking the form of a severe bout of destocking and excessive layoffs of labour which were important characteristics of the recession. These financial forces have reversed and are an important force behind the recovery.



The third factor is a consequence of the previous two and is of crucial importance for the gilt-edged market. The fundamental reason why the gilt-edged market has in the past fallen in an upswing of the business cycle is that the demand for finance in the economy as a whole has exceeded the supply of savings.

Translated into investment language, this means a persistent tendency for sellers of securities to exceed buyers.

The normal pattern is for there to be a substantial increase in the demand from industry for funds to finance an economic recovery as it proceeds. In past cycles, the demand for finance from the government has not fallen back to allow room to meet this additional demand, because of the rise in the budget associated with the reflation of the economy.

## Different cycle

This cycle is different: the budget deficit has not risen significantly. Further, profits of industrial and commercial companies have been rising and the sector is in financial surplus. The result is that the combi-

nation of the public sector's deficit and financial requirements of industrial and commercial companies has been falling as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product during the last few years. Our forecast is that there will be no major change in this percentage in 1984.

The chart shows the historical relationship between gilt-edged yields and the combined financial position of the public sector and industrial & commercial companies. The close cyclical association is clear. If our forecast in correct, the single most important bearish force on the gilt-edged market during a business upswing will not be present. The US also has reached the point of the business cycle when a cyclical bear market in bonds is in prospect. The special factors affecting Britain are, however, not present in the US; indeed the US situation is an exaggerated form of normal post war patterns.

The alarming size of the US budget deficit, plus the pick-up in corporate loan demand there, suggests that the cyclical upswing in interest rates will be marked and that the bear market in US bond has started.

The market is likely to be a fluctuating one in which short-term timing will be very important. Gordon Pepper is joint senior partner of stockbrokers W Greenwell & Co.

This is not to say that yields will rise continuously, from time to time there will be significant, short-term rallies in the US bond market.

## US influence

The effect of rising US yields on Britain will depend to a large extent on sterling's performance against the dollar. If US rates rise significantly while the dollar remains firm there is bound to be upward pressure on British interest rates.

However, if the rise in US interest rates coincides with a weak dollar, there need be little effect on UK markets. The latter appears to be the more likely prospect as 1984 progresses. A rise in US interest rates will not, therefore necessarily be bearish for the gilt-edged market.

Summarizing, the cyclical bull market in British gilt-edged securities associated with recession is ending. The bearish business cycle forces will be muted. Looking at longer run forces, real yields, that is after allowing for inflation, are abnormally high. There is considerable historical evidence that inflationary expectations are slow to adjust when the economy moves from a period of rising inflation to one of falling inflation. But the adjustment occurs in due course. Today's real yields are 1 per cent to 2 per cent too high, which represents a substantial underlying bull factor in the market.

With muted bearish medium-term forces and a substantial underlying bullish force there is unlikely to be a clear trend in gilt-edged prices for much of 1984.

The market is likely to be a fluctuating one in which short-term timing will be very important. Gordon Pepper is joint senior partner of stockbrokers W Greenwell & Co.



## INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • USM REVIEW

# Godwin Warren wins £1/4m deals in US

Godwin Warren Control System's Good relationship with the big City institutions should reach new heights later this week the group announces two important deals in the US.

The group is expected to report two separate contracts in the Beverly Hills area to install its computerized parking and monitoring systems, worth a total of £250,000. Full-year figures, due out in March, are expected to show an increase in pretax profits from £210,000 to £300,000 on a turnover of £3m. Analysts also estimate that turnover in the current year will be £4.5m.

At the last count, institutions held about 50 per cent of the shares following a placing of about 27 per cent of the equity in May last year. The shares ended the week unchanged at 80p, compared with the placing price of 75p.

At a first glance, the decision of the Grosvenor Square Properties Group to join the USM at a substantial premium to its net asset value appears strange.

But Grosvenor is no ordinary property company. It is one of the growing band of dealers which relies on its management and expertise in the market to make its profits. Grosvenor has to be highly selective in its choice of development, and sites complete with vacant possession appear high on the list.

The group then turns to the City institutions for forward funding and is then finally responsible for letting. In this type of business, time is of the essence. Delays cost money.

As a result, analysts have found it hard to price this type of company as it does not conform to the average run-of-the-mill property concern. Grosvenor is broker Phillips and Drew's fourteenth introduction to the USM.

## Unlisted Securities

Capitalization	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	Dividend	Yield
£m		p	%	p	%	p	%
5,000.000	A & M Hire	125	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Aerostar	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3
1,125.000	Acorn	115	+12	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.3

It will be placing the 1.65 million shares at 91p; this is about 28 per cent of the total shares in issue. A total of 732,000 shares is being placed on behalf of the existing shareholders, while the remaining 918,000 will be placed to raise £835,000 of extra working capital.

Mr Paul Marber, chairman, will remain Grosvenor's largest shareholder, with 47 per cent of the equity. At the placing price, the group is valued at £5.46m.

Pretax profits over the past five years have proved erratic, with a loss of £10,000 in 1979 giving way to profits of £588,000 in 1980 and rising to a record £1.2m in 1981. In 1982, they slipped to £457,000 and last year the group made £739,000.

For the current year, to the end of March, the board is forecasting pretax profits of £1m, putting the group on a prospective P/E of 6.75 after an estimated tax charge.

The group is paying a total gross dividend of 7.14p, which is 2.7 times covered and yields 7.85 per cent.

Grosvenor's investment portfolio, including an industrial estate development in Acton, an office building in Bishopsgate and a property in Conduit Street, is valued at £5.1m. Net assets at September 30 stood at £7.2p a share - substantially below the 91p placing price.

Last year, eight schemes were completed with a total value of £1.6m and 11 new developments, including an office development in Westchester, New York, are currently being carried out with a total value of £23.5m.

The group turns to institutions like the London Transpension Fund, Royal

Insurance and the Kodak Pension Fund for the bulk of its forward funding and reports an increase in demand for lettings.

Phillips and Drew expects a "healthy premium" when trading starts on January 23 and dealers expect the price to open at about the 105p level. But the very nature of the business rules it out as a recommendation for widows and orphans.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank and Rowe & Pitman the broker, have got together to sponsor the USM debut of Unibond (Holdings), one of Britain's leading manufacturers of adhesives, fillers, sealants and tile-fixing.

Unibond was founded by the Bushby family who are offering a mixture of new and existing shares, totalling about 40 per cent of the issued equity, to be placed later this week.

The group is expected to achieve its pretax profits forecast of £750,000 for the year to December, 1983, compared with £580,000 last time. Turnover is expected to grow from £7.2m to £8.5m with about 50 per cent of sales taken up by builders' merchants. Other customers include the big do-it-yourself stores like B & Q and Homebase.

The proceeds from the sale will go towards financing a new factory and warehouse complex, covering a 35-acre site at Camberley, Surrey. The factory should be completed this year and is expected to make an immediate contribution to growth.

Several of last year's newcomers to the USM reported last week, easily exceeding their profit forecasts.

Southern Business Leasing, the photocopier and vending machine supplies group, re-

ported pretax profits up from £699,000 to £1.17m for the year to September 30. This is at least £170,000 above the forecast the group made when it joined the USM back in June. Turnover rose by 33 per cent to £4.47m, helped by a strong performance from the photocopier side, where the number of customers rose from 1,700 to 2,100 last year.

The board intends to recommend dividends totalling 2p a share compared with the 1.75p forecast. SBL should be capable of at least £1.5m in the current year and is now looking for a third leg to the business - possibly in the computer service industry. The shares ended the week 3p higher at 105p.

Another group beating its profits forecast was Tunstall Telecom Group, the manufacturer of emergency communications equipment for pensioners, which had few problems in beating its prediction of £1.2m. The shares ended the week at 225p.

Andre de Brett, the outside clothes group, has reported yet another setback following its decision to expand into the menswear business. Interim pretax profits for the six months to end September tumbled from £407,000 to £204,000 on turnover up from £2.4m to £2.9m.

The company is looking for an improvement in its trading fortunes in the second half - traditionally its strongest half.

The company has opened four new retail shops in the London area and hopes to bring the total up to 20 over the next few weeks. In an adventurous move, de Brett has decided to take over the running of Queen's Park Rangers' Supporters Club shop.

Although still running at a loss after a late start, one week's sales before Christmas topped £7,000.

Michael Clark

## UK offshore firms in line for orders from India

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

Britain's lead in offshore oil technology is expected to result in big export orders being placed by India, which is about to expand its Bombay High offshore oilfields and start exploration on the other side of the sub-continent.

A delegation from British offshore suppliers, led by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the energy minister, is to visit India in the middle of next month. The delegation will include representatives of the Department of Energy's Offshore Supply Office as well as financial advisers.

Any order from the Indian Government places for offshore technology are likely to be dependent on aid or favourable credit terms from British banks. India's foreign reserves have been stretched to meet overseas orders for high technology, but the development of its energy resources are high on the list of investment plans.

Britain made extensive preliminary inquiries on offshore supply sales to India during the World Energy Conference in New Delhi, where British energy experts played a leading role in the debates, and at diplomatic level during the Commonwealth Ministers' Conference a month later.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said: "We must make every effort to ensure that we exploit the lessons learned in the North Sea to the fullest. The industry in Britain has shown that it can provide the goods, and despite some technical setbacks and labour disputes, it has been able to provide the goods ordered on time and within budget."

Techniques that have been developed by the United Kingdom industry are what is needed by the Indian offshore industry, where conditions in many areas are similar to those in the North Sea.

"Our visit will allow the industry to show at the highest level just what is achieved and how it is able to help other countries develop their offshore industries."

New licence agreements to be announced in the coming year by the Department of Energy will result in further technology being developed as marginal fields are brought into production.

## BOARD MEETINGS

**TODAY** - Interims: Caledonian Associated Cinemas, Estates Property Investment Trust, G. T. Japan Investment Trust, Hilland, and Home Farm Products. Final: Alexander Discount, G. T. Asia (Sterling) Fund.

**TOMORROW** - Interims: F. Copson, Courts (Furnishers), McCarthy Pharmaceuticals, McKay Securities, Mercantile House, J. Saville and European Factors, Sampson Holdings and Trent Holdings. Final: Glass Glover Group, A. Kershaw and Sons, Meggit Holdings, Microgen Holdings, Rank Organisation and Rank Precision Industries.

**WEDNESDAY** - Interims: Park Food Group, McLeod Russell and Alfred Walker. Final: Bootham Engineers, Camford Engineering, Edinburgh American Assets, Energy Resources and Services, FINMA, Ashley Industrial Trust, Bullough, Derby Trust, Hill & Smith Holdings, Isle of Man Steam Packet Co., Newmarket Co. (1981), F. Pratt Engineering and Vogelstrubel Metal Holdings.

**FRIDAY** - Interims: East of Scotland Onshore, Hallite, Neesden, Wholesale Fittings and SW Wood Group. Final: Hayters and Robert H. Lowe.

## Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

# Satellite TV could bring 'world brands'

The arrival of satellite television in Britain last week, closely followed by the endorsement by the Independent Broadcasting Authority of new European principles governing advertising on satellite channels, has centred attention on an area of the "new media" technology. Recently, this has been overshadowed by the development of the cable channels.

There is still great debate among the broadcasting and marketing experts on which of the two - cable or satellite - will have the greater impact and indeed whether their future may not be inextricably linked. But there is no doubt that the satellite offers the world's biggest manufacturing companies the more exciting opportunities.

Satellite broadcasting, if it develops its full potential - and that is a big "if" indeed - offers multinational marketing companies the chance to advertise throughout Europe with a single commercial. That possibility, linked to other commercial and social forces, is encouraging companies with brands in many countries to reconsider their marketing strategies. This means examining the potential of marketing their products under the same name with the same packaging and style of advertising throughout Europe and beyond.

The idea of "Euro brands" or "world brands" is not new and there are a handful of companies, such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Philip Morris (with Marlboro cigarettes), which have developed these brands with huge success. The question now being asked is whether this success can be duplicated by other companies attempting to move over to a Euro-strategy, or whether companies would be better off continuing to market their products country by country.

This issue was addressed last week at a Pan-European symposium in London. The IBA chairman, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, announced the IBA's endorsement of the European Broadcasting Union's principles governing advertising on direct-to-home satellite (DBS) channels.

These satellites are of a higher power than the one being used by the Sky Channel which started broadcasting to 10,000 cable-subscribers in Swindon last week. They will transmit specifically to individual countries in Europe, but inevitably there will be huge areas of overlap, particularly on mainland Europe. It is because the signals cannot be kept within national frontiers that the EBU principles are deemed necessary - and that multinationals are so keen to experiment with satellites.

Companies such as Kellogg's, Coca-Cola, Polaroid, Schepers, Mobil and British Airways started using the Sky Channel, then known simply by its company name, Satellite Television, more than two years ago, when it was transmitting to a few thousand homes in Norway, Finland and Malta. One reason for their interest was the heavy restrictions on television advertising - in terms

## European potential of Britain's top 50 advertised brands

Sold only in Britain	%
Sold outside Britain but under different name	12
Sold outside Britain under same name, but with different packaging and/or advertising	30
Sold outside Britain under same name, packaging and advertising	0

Source: Reeves Robertson Needham, Dec 1982

of the amount of airtime and what may be said in commercials - in most mainland European countries.

Satellite broadcasts would be one way of bypassing those restrictions, and the new EBU principles are by no means as strict as those of some countries, as may be deduced from the fact that Britain, which is one of the more liberal regimes in television advertising terms, has endorsed them. While they ban cigarette advertising (outlawed on British television since 1965) and call for a strengthening of rules for advertising alcohol, they put no limit on the amount of advertising that may be permitted and they recognize the place of Britain's "natural break" within programmes, which is not allowed in many countries.

It is not just the possibilities of satellite advertising that have led companies to look at the potential of world- or Euro-marketing, however. The existence of the EEC has been a force in this direction, as have other economic factors, but just as important have been cultural and demographic changes.

There is no doubt that satellite offers manufacturers exciting chances

A leading proponent of the "world brands" philosophy is Saatchi & Saatchi, which in its last annual report devoted eight pages to an analysis of the opportunities for world brands. Demographic changes, such as ageing populations, falling birth rates and increased female employment are common to large areas of the industrial world, the report says.

Television and cinema films are creating elements of a shared culture, Saatchi says, with programmes such as *Dallas* and *Star Wars* and *E.T.* crossing national boundaries and achieving world awareness.

Saatchi admits that the successes in world branding so far have been few, but maintains that more and more big companies will adopt this approach. It cites Procter & Gamble and its Pampers brand of disposable nappies.

The agency says: "Pampers is now P & G's largest brand and is sold on a similar strategy all over the world. If the Pampers business was a separate company, it would rank in the top one-third of the *Fortune* 500 list."

Leo Burnett, which handles Marlboro, Seven-Up, Kellogg's and other brands in many countries, might be thought to subscribe to the same view. However, according to the

agency's European co-ordination director, Mr Lionel Godfrey, international advertising is not always the answer.

"Many reasons are often quoted for running the same campaign in many countries," Mr Godfrey told the Pan-European symposium. "They include savings in production costs, savings in management time, the development of a unified image and the growth of international media, such as satellites."

"However, the only valid reason is a global approach will sell more merchandise, more profitably, in total, than the sum of the different individual local approaches. If it will not, it is better not to begin," he said.

Mr Godfrey cited the different approaches of three of Britain's multi-national clients. Marlboro uses a central advertising strategy - the cowboy theme, which has been running since 1955 - but with local execution of the creative work, to account for local differences.

An analysis by the London agency Reeves Robertson Needham a year ago showed that of the 50 most heavily advertised brands and services in Britain, 29 - or 58 per cent - were not marketed outside the country.

Six of the 50 were sold outside Britain, but under different names or with different packaging. Fifteen were marketed throughout Europe under the same brand name, but with different packaging and/or advertising.

On the first night of the Sky Channel in Swindon last week, there was an advertisement for Snickers, a confectionery product better known in Britain as Marathon. Such problems mean that some manufacturers are investigating the possibility of changing the names of their products, weighing up the risks of damaging a brand in one market against the overall long-term strength of having a unified European approach.

This is less of a problem for the manufacturers of consumer durables such as hi-fi and home computers, or cameras, since these are sold under the same name and with the same logo in most countries. But even then there can be huge problems.

For example, Coca-Cola, one of the few mass market brands sold under the same name and advertising strategy throughout the world, is also advertising on the Sky Channel, but before it could do so it had to gain approval from the head of the local operation in each country on over a dozen different items, not least of which was how much each country should contribute to the cost of such a campaign.

The idea of world brands is a very attractive one in principle, but a lot less easy in practice.

## £1.5bn trade surplus likely

The trade figures for December, due out on Wednesday, are likely to attract interest. The cumulative current account surplus for the first 11 months of last year was £1.3 billion, and most City analysts expect a surplus of up to £250m in December, which would produce a 1983 balance of payments surplus of about £1.5 billion.

This compares with the Treasury's forecast in November of a £500m surplus last year falling to zero this year, a prediction which was almost

## ECONOMIC VIEW

immediately overtaken by embarrassing upward revisions to invisible earnings.

There are also signs that exports are beginning to pick up again after a generally poor year, although imports are still running at a high level. The City expects the balance of visible trade to show a slight surplus in December.

The Department of Employment's *Gazette*, which is published on Thursday, will include a tally of days lost through strikes last year. At under 4 million this is expected to be the lowest since 1967, with the exception of 1976.

Other figures out this week include final third quarter finished steel consumption and stock changes and November new construction orders (Wednesday), new vehicle registrations in December and November energy trends (Thursday) and October engineering sales and orders (Friday).

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Frances Williams

## Six new members for Engineering Council

The Engineering Council Mr Christopher (Kit) Farrow, assistant director on the Bank of England, is one of six new members appointed by the government to the Engineering Council. Mrs Joanna Kennedy, senior engineer at Ove Arup and Partners, consulting engineer, is also one.

The others are: Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, chairman of Rank Xerox, Mr Hugh Lang, chairman of P-E International and

## APPOINTMENTS

Redman Heenan International, Dr John Illstone, director of Hatfield Polytechnic and Mr Eric Hammond general secretary-elect of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union. Spicer and Peglar: Mr Ralph Sharp has joined the firm. Streeters of Godalming: Messrs

R. G. Alexander, P. J. O. Burgess and L. B. Johnson are now directors. Mr Alexander has become chairman.

Acrolec Holdings: Mr Howard Cowley has been promoted to the board as sales and marketing director.

Messrs H. A. Brownsey, C. F. Newman and A. A. F. Cole have joined the board. Triplex Industries Group: Mr James Doel has been named chief executive. Automotive Products: Mr W. D. Tapley is joining the board as deputy chairman. Mr B. G. Hill, the managing director, will become chairman of overseas operations and Mr Tapley will, from June 1, become chairman of the UK automotive operations.

FRIDAY - Interims: East of Scotland Onshore, Hallite, Neesden, Wholesale Fittings and SW Wood Group. Final: Hayters and Robert H. Lowe.

Law Report January 23 1984

## Family Division

Report on ward excluded from criminal case

In re J (a Minor)

Before Mr Justice Wood

[Judgment delivered January 19]

It was not in the best interests of a ward of court to be examined a second time by a child psychiatrist so that the psychiatrist could give evidence on behalf of the ward's mother in criminal proceedings. The court also refused an application for leave to present an earlier report on the child by the same psychiatrist for use in the same proceedings.

Mr Justice Wood sitting in the Family Division gave his reasons for the refusal of the mother's applications in open court. The application had been refused in November 1983 but his Lordship had refrained from giving his reasons until after the mother's trial.

Mr Robert Purdie for the mother, Miss Margaret Windridge for the local authority, Mr Andrew Kirkwood for the child.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the mother had been committed for trial for inflicting grievous bodily harm on her daughter, the ward, contrary to section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and for attempting to pervert the course of justice by falsely alleging that she and the ward had been assaulted and threatened with a metal candlestick by the ward's father.

The main witness for the prosecution was the ward herself. The mother stated that the ward's statements were fabrication caused

by the ward's traumatic history and that she must be mentally disturbed. It was submitted the evidence of the child psychiatrist would assist the jury at the trial to decide whether the ward was lying. It was also submitted that it would be in the ward's best interests to have the benefit of psychotherapy during the trial.

From an early age the child had had a disturbed childhood because of the parents' stormy marriage. Following divorce, the mother and the child had come to London to avoid the father. The father had traced them and had made a forcible entry into their home and behaved with violence.

The mother had been moved to a different address. There, in September 1982, the mother had set up the flat and had been charged with arson. After that the daughter was placed in the care of the local authority and on October 1, 1983, the originating summons in wardship had been taken out. The ward was placed on probation.

In May 1983 the ward returned to live with her mother and in July the court granted care and control to the mother with a supervision order. Three weeks later the girl was seriously assaulted by the mother.

The court then made an order giving care and control to the local authority and directing that the ward should live with foster parents where she had remained.

The wardship proceedings were still in existence and the psychiatrist's report of November 1982 was part of those proceedings. It followed the use of that report would constitute a contempt under section 20 of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 if published without the court's consent.

Any contempt over the evidence sought would not arise from publication but from interference with the ward without the leave of the court.

His Lordship reviewed *In re X (a Minor)* (1975) Fam 471 and *In re RMJ (a Minor)* (1975) Fam 591 and formulated the following principles.

1 That a judge exercising the wardship jurisdiction had limited power to protect the ward from any interference with his or her welfare whether direct or indirect.

2 That it was unfruitful to seek to define any limits to the jurisdiction.

3 That the exercise of the power was discretionary.

4 That the interests of the ward were the first and most important consideration.

5 That it was important to bear in mind confidentially so that witnesses would not feel inhibited.

6 That it was in the public interest that all relevant material should be before the court so that justice must be done and seen to be done despite the fact that in the wardship jurisdiction the court acted in private.

7 That in the exercise of their discretionary power judges should keep a proper balance between the protection of their wards and the rights of outside parties (those parties not in a family or personal relationship with the ward) whether such right arose by common law or statute.

On prosecution case depended upon the child as the principal witness. The only basis upon which the November report and the proposed evidence after further examination was said to be relevant and admissible was that such evidence would assist the jury to assess the credibility of the ward.

The evidence would seek to show that the ward was a disturbed child and did not know the difference between truth and fiction.

On the issue of relevance and admissibility his Lordship had considered three authorities: *Toohy v Metropolitan Police Commissioner* (1965) AC 593; *R v Turner* (1975) 1QB 34; and *R v Mackenney* (1981) 72 Cr App R 781.

In argument the phrase "mental disturbance" was used. In so far as that fell short of mental illness or marked abnormality such disturbance did not fall within the principle enunciated by Lord Pearce in *Toohy*.

It would be almost impossible for the ward to have escaped from the trauma of her life so far but there was no evidence to suggest that the ward was not a normal girl and the

report of 1982 had concluded "considering the stresses and anxieties of her experience the ward impresses as a surprisingly gentle and thoughtful girl."

The court took into account that not every child from a broken home required psychiatric help; that it would be unwise to send the child for psychiatric examination to find out if there had been any consequential ill effects; that it would be wise to allow some months to elapse so that the child could become adjusted to her new environment and that consideration of the desirability of psychiatric help would only arise if there were behavioural symptoms beyond the capability of a loving understanding parent with which to cope.

If the ward were adult no court had power to compel her to undergo a psychiatric examination.

The public interest in a fair trial for the mother did not require the evidence of the psychiatrist after a further examination of the use of the report of November 1982. It would be against the interests of the ward for the report to be used in the criminal trial and it would be against the interests of the ward to be further examined by the psychiatrist.

For these reasons, the application which had been opposed by the local authority and the Official Solicitor was refused.

Solicitors: Whitson & Co, Harlow; Mr P. Thomson, Chelmsford; Official Solicitor.





# Four candidates who have the popular vote are unconvincing

Chelsea may have taken over at the top on goal difference on Saturday, but they were led there only by an inspired home debut from Thomas. They would merely be deluding themselves if they expected the eager and experienced but under-ward Welsh international, bought from Stoke City for £75,000, to rise to the occasion every week.

As occasions go, this was Chelsea's biggest of the season. Even though he has appeared for Manchester United in an FA Cup final at Wembley, Thomas has never been so nervous about a game. By the interval, without a shot on target, even

Even if Chelsea achieve their aim, the difficulties over their ground may not be their lone problem next season. Their victims do not have to wait so long to test their ability. In two days, they meet Liverpool again, in a Milk Cup quarter-final replay at Anfield. It is, however, unlikely to be Sheffield's Wednesday.

**CHelsea** A Medziewsky; C Lee, J Jones, D. M. Vaughan, M. Davies, P. Nevins, N. Spackman, K. Dixon, D. Speedie, M. Thomas.

**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY** M. Hodges; M. Starland, P. Shriiff, M. Smith, M. Lyons, L. Maddison, G. Megson, G. Bamister, I. Varadi (sub A Cunningham), J. Pearson (sub A. S. Davies).

**REPORT** Stevens (SheffHaw).

NEWCASTLE UNITED: K Carr; J Anderson, T Ryan, D McGreevy, J Clarke, G Roeder, K Keegan, P Beardsley, G Woods, T McDermott.



**By Paul Newman**

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**West Ham United..... 1**  
**West Bromwich Albion..... 0**

FA VASE: Fourth round: Warrington 0, Guiseley 3; Huddersfield 2, S Rufford 0; Baldock 1, Grays 1.

Stewart marshalled West Ham's makeshift back four with calm authority. In the absence of Bond and Martin, Stewart and Walford

**BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP**—Third round: Newport Pagnell 1, Abingdon 3.

## brandy

By Dennis Shaw

Brooks	Kilmore
Houchen (pen)	2,204

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First division

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Notre County

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Blackburn Rovers

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Cardiff City

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Derby County

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Doncaster

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Grimsby Town

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Leeds United

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Manchester United

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CRICKET: REBELS ON TOP UP NORTH, ENGLAND ON TOP DOWN SOUTH

# Crawford may go as a matter of honour

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

The Yorkshire committee will meet at Headingley today to consider the stunning defeat which they suffered at the special general meeting of the club held at Harrogate on Saturday. The decision facing them, if not collectively, then individually, is whether or not to resign.

While expecting to lose the first of the three resolutions (that Boycott should forthwith be offered a contract for 1984) and quite possibly the third (a vote of no confidence in the cricket committee) the main committee had banked on surviving the second resolution, which was a vote of confidence in them. In the event all three went against them, the first and third by comprehensive margins, the second by a handful of votes.

When asked whether he had thought of requesting a recount on the second resolution Michael Crawford, who chaired the meeting, said that, although it had passed through their minds to do so, a few votes either way really made no difference. This, I would have thought, was debatable. Although, constitutionally, the committee are obliged to do no more than take note of the voting, they would have had a stronger case for digging their heels in, which was in their minds, had the majority, small though it was, been in their favour.

When the score on the first resolution was declared it was quite decorously received by the "rebels". When the defeat of the general committee was announced, they raised the roof. The "rebels" see it now as a matter of honour for those committee members who supported the dismissal of Boycott to resign. Mr Crawford almost certainly will be the man he is: other may not.

After Saturday's meeting Ronnie

Burnet, chairman of the cricket committee, was in fighting mood. He implied that he might yet decide to be more explicit about the reasons for wanting Boycott out. The nearest anyone came at the meeting to giving chapter and verse of a Boycott transgression was when the committee member for the North Riding referred to an occasion when Boycott was asked to leave a sponsor's tent.

Only in Yorkshire can one feel the depth and bitterness of the dispute. Tens of thousands of Yorkshiremen talk of little else. The 4,115 members who voted for Boycott's return represented only a fraction of those on moor and dale who would want him back. Unfortunately, though, his

or a former cricketer in sight. The Yorkshire County Cricket Club can no more be run without the Crawfords and the Bryan Stolls and the Norman Yardleys of this world than the Treasury could be without an economist in sight.

"I am happy and relieved at the outcome," Boycott said, "and accept it with joy and humility."

Although the resolution demanding his reinstatement was only for 1984, his offer to retire after one year made some weeks ago no longer stands. For a man of 42, his very fit and he has a last gasp batting technique. But if he wants to win over those who play with him and those who voted against him, he will

districts into which, for cricketing purposes, the county is divided. Elections are already pending. In one of them - at Wakefield - Boycott is standing. He remains determined to do so. Logistically it should be possible for elections to be conducted in the other wards before the Annual General Meeting on March 3.

If this is unmanageable the AGM could presumably be put back to make sure that as the season approaches a full committee is in existence. Now that they have got their way over Boycott and shying away from the prospect of the club falling into inexperienced hands, the members, given the chance, might well re-elect most of the existing committee.

## How the members voted

	FOR	AGAINST
Boycott's contract	4,115	3,109
		Majority: 1,006
No confidence in cricket committee	3,997	3,209
		Majority: 788
No confidence in general committee	3,609	3,578
		Majority: 31

supporters in the Conference Centre gave ominously little impression of being the right people to run the club. What is now essential is that Boycott and his most influential followers display an unwelcome magnanimity. There are many good members of the present Yorkshire committee whom the club can ill afford to lose. This was never more obvious than when Boycott eventually emerged on Saturday evening as though released from exile, surrounded by those who had brought about the coup, yet without a cricketer

have to think more of others and less of himself. He should see it as his greatest challenge not to regain his place in the England side or to surpass Herbert Sutcliffe's record of runs, but the chance to prove Mr Burnet wrong in his belief that "Yorkshire will only be reunited when Boycott is gone".

It would be as well today for Boycott's critics on the committee (they number 18 out of a complement of 29) to resign and for those who are not irreparably disillusioned to offer themselves for re-election. In eight of the 17

There were getting on for 1,500 people in the Conference Centre on Saturday. If as many as 31 of them went with an open mind, which I doubt, they can only have been unimpressed by the case for the committee despite the dignity with which it was presented. At the same time they must have been concerned by the incontinence of the opposition. A woman sitting behind me was a disgrace to her cause.

The futures of Ray Illingworth, Yorkshire's cricket manager and an absentee on Saturday, but previously outspoken in his opposition to Boycott, as well as of two or three of the Yorkshire players, are up in the air. David Bairstow, Yorkshire's new captain is an admirer of Boycott's. Illingworth says he is content to await developments: Jim Love, albeit unhappy, is expected to resign from the club. If, yesterday, the committee were hoping to have a preliminary get-together before today's meeting even that was difficult. Yorkshire was carpeted in snow.



## England hold course after riding out bouncer backlash

From Derek Hodgson, Wellington

England had reached 463 when Randall's six-hour vigil ended with a rather tired and a rather tired England. Thanks chiefly to Botham, England's 463 had been raised in 535 minutes, a highly satisfactory rate over 132 overs from four seam bowlers and an auxiliary, Martin Crowe.

England's recovery from 115 for five persuaded Wright and Edgar that the ball was no longer seaming to any great extent. While the England's captain, Willie, and his helmet, "Bob made very little of it when he returned to the dressing room," Alan Smith, the manager, said, "We're not going to be diverted from winning this match and hopefully the series by close catching, make a better explanation."

So the New Zealanders began confidently, although they knew two or perhaps three of their batsmen did not like short-pitched balls, especially the superbly close catching, make a better explanation.

New Zealand began yesterday when Randall was spurring by a belief held in the game that Hadlee does not like short-pitched balls, especially the superbly close catching, make a better explanation.

## Richards on form before 80,000

Melbourne (Reuters) - Viv Richards treated a record one-day match of 86.133 to a magnificent century yesterday, inspiring the West Indies to a 26-run victory over Australia in a World Series Cup Match.

Richards contributed 106 to his side's total of 252 for six overs, including 12 fours and one six off 94 balls.

Richards then took two wickets for 31 off his 10 overs, as Australia's batsmen, 226 all out, with their opener, Kepler Wessels, scoring 60 and their captain Kim Hughes adding 71.

West Indies now look certain for a place in the finals next month.

## Umpires criticized by South African captain

Pretoria (Reuters) - The South African captain, Clive Rice, yesterday criticized the umpiring in Saturday's rain-shortened one-day match against the unofficial West Indians which saw the West Indians gain an unbeatable 4-1 lead in the six-match series, with the final match due in Pretoria today.

The West Indians, set a winning target of 280 in 50 overs, were behind the required run rate when rain halted play, and if the match had been abandoned, the South Africans would have won. But after an hour's stoppage, possibly to appease the capacity 28,000 crowd, the umpires ordered play to resume, and the touring side scrambled towards the red target of 207 in 27 overs with 16 balls to spare.

Rice said the situation could not have arisen anywhere else in the world. "The umpires made my Springboks look fools, that's what I object to. We were taken out by play under conditions that weren't good enough," he said.

A desperate run chase in the closing overs saw the West Indians to a thrilling victory on Saturday. The captain, Rowe, with 87, led his side's revival, after they had slumped to 36 for three in reply to

the South Africans' 279 for three in their 50 overs.

The touring team needed Rowe and Greenidge to push the score along at just more than seven runs an over in the final session, and they did in magnificent style.

Then Greenidge was run out for 68, his highest score of the tour, and Rowe fell leg before, all in the space of 11 runs, to leave the West Indians on 180 for six, with fewer than six overs remaining.

Greenidge was a third run-out victim with the score on 196, but Moseley recorded the required runs.

Earlier Yachad celebrated his debut for the South Africans with a magnificent unbeaten 123. Yachad never gave a chance and, after the first few overs when the new ball was moving about, looked completely at ease.

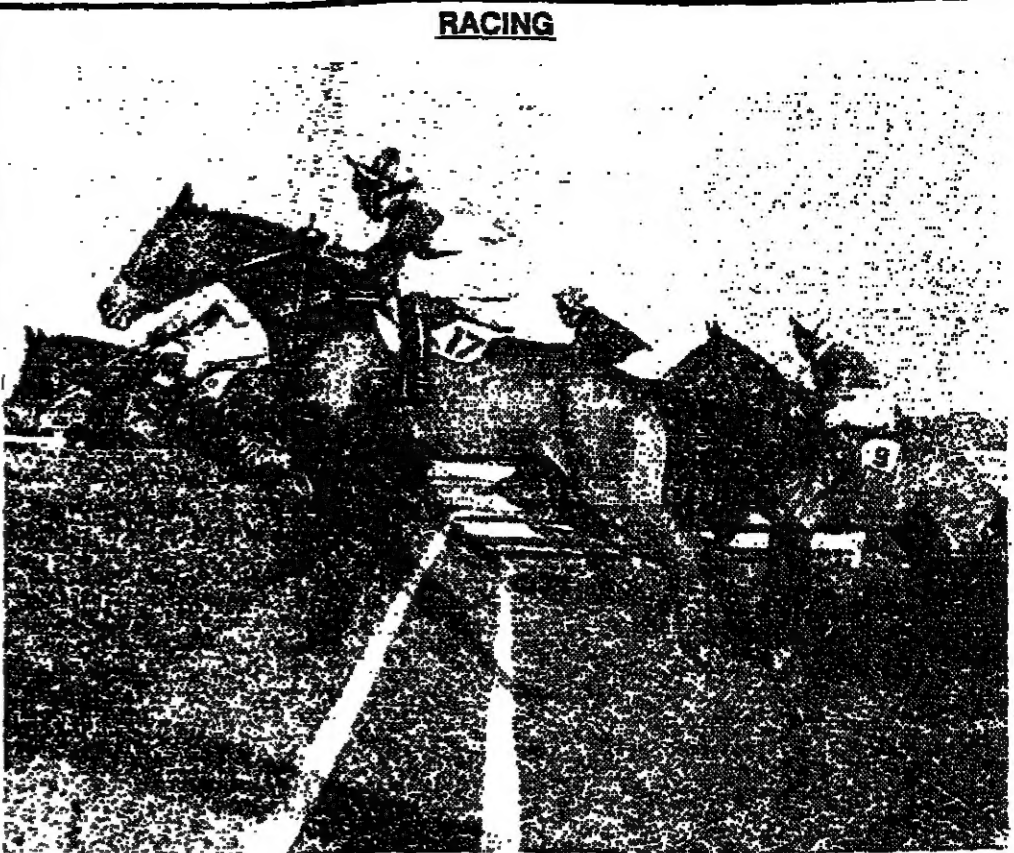
South Africa's 279 for three in 50 overs was a third run-out victim with the score on 196, but Moseley recorded the required runs.

## Sponsor for St Leger

Details of a major sponsorship deal for the St Leger, Britain's oldest classic, are expected to be announced at a press conference at Doncaster on Friday.

The big Doncaster race is the last of the classics to find a backer. Deal has been secured for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas, with the General Accident Insurance Company, and last week Ever Ready were named as the £2m sponsors of the Epsom Derby and Oaks.

Speculation is that the backers are a major London-based brewing company, and larger firm Holsten have been mentioned in one report. The company's name is not confirmed, but it is thought to be a new venture into line with the Irish and French equivalents, are thought to be untrue.



Up and over: Young Lover's leap to success in the Bic Razor Novices Chase at Kempton Park on Saturday (Photograph: Ed Byrne)

## Francome has double helping

By Michael Seely

The men whom John Francome recently dubbed "the cabbage patch kids" certainly harried their persecutor at Kempton on Saturday. The reigning champion jockey is now an 11-8 on chance with Ladbrokes to win his fifth title, after inspired performances on Wollow Will and Young Lover. But the six-year-old certainly failed to advertise his chances for the Schweppes.

Brown deserves full marks for his enterprising riding of Janus. The grey was going by far the best approaching the straight and the jockey did right to set sail for home. Very Promising proved this Windsor running to be all wrong by staying on strongly to be beaten only three quarters of a length. The fact that Cool Decision finished 10 lengths away in third place hallmarks the excellence of the form.

Both Brown and Mrs Smith subsequently doubted whether Janus would be as effective at Newbury as at Kempton. "He loves these sharp tracks," said the trainer. Brown added: "They would be queuing up to have a go at him in that long straight at Newbury." However, Al Smith is the handicapper expert in the Chichester team and the trainer's husband put matters in perspective when he said yesterday: "Janus stays well and will have him ridden in a different way in the Schweppes. He looks sure to give us a good run."

Very Promising ran a marvellous trial for Newbury's big handicap, Le Vermondois. Persian War and Indianapolis were all beaten at Kempton prior to

their Schweppes triumph. Those who wait for Mercy, Rimell to return from Barbados, to announce her plans will certainly miss the price.

Amarch remains a firm favourite at 8-1 with William Hills and looks to succeed for Roger Fisher where Ekbalco failed so narrowly against Donegal Prince in 1982. But Very Promising has having his first run of the season, when attempting to give the Schweppes favourite 4lb in the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham and will reoppose on 7lb better terms at Newbury.

Every line in the formbook now pinpoints the chances of Janus and Very Promising. And those who take the 16-1 and 12-1 currently on offer should be making a backers' book on the right lines. Admiral's Cup is strongly fancied to give Winter his first triumph in the Schweppes, but this tough six-year-old appears to have about 5lb too much weight. Andy Turnbull is correct when he points out that Saturday's result makes him happy with the 10st 10lb allotted to Secret Ballot, but intending backers of the winner of Windsor's New Year's Day hurdle would do well to wait till nearer the day. Both Janus and Very Promising are equally effective in soft going, but Secret Ballot definitely prefers good ground.

John Francome is 2-1 with Ladbrokes to beat Stan Mellor's record of 1,034 jumping winners before the end of the season. Francome, with 76 winners this season, needs another 33 to pass Mellor's total.

## Stanley Miller set to lead Foxtrot Tango

Stanley Miller, sixth in a handicap hurdle at Leopardstown last Saturday, has less to do in the Equus Novice Hurdle at Navan this afternoon.

The nine-year-old, a winner on yielding ground at Limerick earlier this season, can beat Foxtrot Tango and Paddy Mullins' gelding has won two competitive handicaps this season at Leopardstown and Naas, and ran a fine race in defeat last time out when fourth to Fredroster in the fish species, Hurdle. He has won over this trip.

## Navan wait on early inspection

There will be no racing in England today. The meetings, scheduled for Carlisle and Leicester have both been called off because of snow and frost. This brings the total of meetings lost this season to 23. Haydock, Catterick and Warwick were lost on Saturday, but today's Irish meeting at Navan, postponed from Saturday, rests on a 7.0 a.m. inspection.

Prospects of a resumption at Chester tomorrow are bright, but Nottingham is extremely doubtful because of snow and frost. Stewards are inspecting the course at 12.30 today.

## Navan

GOING: Heavy (7 a.m. inspection)	
1.45 LLOYD CHASE (Novices: £1,311; 2m 5f) (16 runners)	
1	200- BROWNTHORN J. Connolly 8-11-7
2	114- STREET ARCADE M. O'Brien 11-1
3	224- DUNKIN M. O'Brien 11-7
4	200- GEORGE B. O'Brien 11-7
5	200- MAC'S FRIENDLY P. Mullins 7-11-7
6	200- MASTER VINCENTS M. Cullinan 6-11-7
7	200- KENNEL M. O'Brien 7-11-7
8	200- REBECCA J. Dwyer 8-11-7
9	200- TALBOT BROTHERS P. Flood 8-11-7
10	200- TASHA M. O'Brien 8-11-7
11	200- TELE-DEAN M. O'Brien 8-11-7
12	200- THE OAK J. Murphy 8-11-7
13	200- VICTORIA ROAD P. Mullins 8-11-7
14	200- WILD ARCADE C. Power 11-1
15	200- MASTER NIGHT P. Mullins 8-11-7
16	200- MANSTON M. O'Brien 8-11-7
2.15 MULLACURRY HURDLE (5-y-o: maidens: £1,500; 2m) (18)	
1	400- CRAFTY CHATTER P. McCree 11-12
2	400- AMERICAN HILL M. O'Brien 11-12
3	400- ASHTON BLAKE P. Whyle 11-4
4	400- BACHELOR OF ARTS S. Kelly 11-4
5	400- SOLID NATIVE P. McDowell 11-4
6	400- BRIDGEMAN DEW A. Moore 11-4
7	400- CLAREMONT BOY C. S. McDowell 11-4
8	400- HARMONY ROW R. Conner 11-4
9	400- BOY BRADY D. Hughes 11-4
10	400- BATTIST M. O'Brien 11-4
11	400- PUNTERS DELIGHT P. Gilmore 11-4
12	400- GOURDS JUBILEE F. Flood 11-4
13	400- DANCE W. O'Brien 11-4
14	400- WELLS SEE F. O'Brien 11-4
15	400- WELL BORN D. Hughes 11-4
16	400- DANCE W. O'Brien 11-4
17	400- LUCKY SPA P. Day 5-9-9
18	400- GROUNDWATER P. Harty 5-9-9
19	400- VINTAGE YEAR M. O'Brien 5-9-9
20	400- ARDSTOWN MASTER C. Power 7-9-7
2.45 PROUDSTOWN HURDLE (Handicap: listed race grade III; 24, 140; 2m 5f) (18)	
1	100- PASSING PARADE M. O'Brien 8-12-9
2	100- STREET ARCADE M. O'Brien 11-13
3	400- BATTIST M. O'Brien 11-11
4	400- REBECCA J. Dwyer 8-11-7
5	400- GEORGE B. O'Brien 11-7
6	400- MAC'S FRIENDLY P. Mullins 7-11-7
7	400- MASTER VINCENTS M. Cullinan 6-11-7
8	400- KENNEL M. O'Brien 7-11-7
9	400- REBECCA J. Dwyer 8-11-7
10	400- TALBOT BROTHERS P. Flood 8-11-7
11	400- TASHA M. O'Brien 8-11-7
12	400- TELE-DEAN M. O'Brien 8-11-7
13	400- THE OAK J. Murphy 8-11-7
14	400- VICTORIA ROAD P. Mullins 8-11-7
15	400- WILD ARCADE C. Power 11-1
16	400- MASTER NIGHT P. Mullins 8-11-7
17	400- MANSTON M. O'Brien 8-11-7
18	400- BROWNTHORN J. Connolly 8-11-7
3.15 EQUUS HURDLE (Novices: £1,380; 3m) (15)	
1	400- DARK HARBOR J. Fowler 8-12-0
2	400- PORTER M. O'Brien 8-12-0
3	400- H. MULLIN P. Flood 8-12-0
4	400- PASS THE PLATE M. O'Brien 8-12-0
5	400- STANLEY MILLER T. Mullins 8-12-0
6	400- CAMUS MARGARET J. McGee 7-11-6
7	400- CASTLE ROY M. O'Brien 7-11-6
8	400- MERIDIAN M. O'Brien 7-11-6
9	400- KENNEL M. O'Brien 7-11-6
10	400- ROYAL CAPTAIN E. G. Kennedy 7-11-6
11	400- ROYAL JOKER W. Swan 6-11-6
12	400- STEEL KNIGHT M. O'Brien 6-11-6
13	400- WEST GALLOWAY M. O'Brien 6-11-6
14	400- HANBY BELL L. O'Brien 6-11-6
15	400- HENRY NICK W. R. Mullins 6-11-6
3.45 TRIM CHASE (Handicap: £1,311; 3m) (9)	
1	400- SMARTBERRY E. Harty 8-11-6
2	400- BALAN TOWN M. O'Brien 8-11-6
3	400- BLAZING WIND M. O'Brien 8-11-6
4	400- OUR CLOUD S. Kelly 8-11-6
5	400- GRACIOUS VAUGHAN T. Kelly 8-11-6
6	400- SUPER FAIRY C. Kenna 8-11-6
7	400- TRINITY AIR J. O'Keefe 7-11-6
8	400- DIRT OF ALVA L. Woods 8-11-6
9	400- BAHIA DE PALMA J. Gilheeny 7-11-6
4.15 THOMAS GRANT FLETCHER CUP (Flat race: amateurs: £986; 2m) (27)	
1	200- BOLTING BERTIE J. Flanagan 8-12-0
2	200- CORSEY P. Mullins 8-12-0
3	200- BOLTON B. O'Brien 8-12-0
4	200- DANCING LAD T. Borge 8-12-0
5	200- BLAZING WIND M. O'Brien 8-12-0
6	200- STEEL KNIGHT M. O'Brien 8-12-0
7	200- NEWLANDS RIVER F. Flood 8-12-0
8	200- NIPPARDON A. McDowell 8-12-0
9	200- REAL FAIRY J. O'Brien 8-12-0
10	200- REAL PEACOCK S. Kelly 8-12-0
11	200- SEEDLING ROAD P. Flood 8-12-0
12	200- SETTLERS BEACH E. O'Grady 7-12-0
13	200- TELEVISION R. Harty 8-12-0
14	200- ULAN BATOR E. Harty 8-12-0
15	200- WELLS SEE F. O'Brien 8-12-0
16	200- WESTERN PRIDE J. Coleman 8-12-0
17	200- WHATEVER W. B. P. Mullins 8-12-0
18	200- GAMES LAD T. Borge 8-12-0
19	200- JUDY BROWNE J. O'Brien 8-12-0
20	200- LILLY WHITE L. O'Brien 8-12-0
21	200- LUCKY HARBOR C. O'Brien 8-12-0
22	200- RATHKILMEAN LASS J. Harty 8-12-0
23	200- ROYAL ARCADE L. O'Brien 8-12-0
24	200- SHIRAZ J. Dwyer 8-12-0
25	200- STABOE LADY J. Wood 8-12-0
26	200- TROTTER J. Murphy 8-12-0
27	200- WHATEVER W. B. P. Mullins 8-12-0
Navan selections	
1.45 High Reign. 2.15 How Brave. 2.45 Street Angel. 3.15 Stanley Miller. 3.45 Trinity Air. 4.15 Whatever Will Be.	

## IN BRIEF

### A complex problem

Nairobi (Reuters) - The long-delayed fourth All-Africa Games have again been postponed and will now be held in 1987, a Kenyan official of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) said here. John Kasuku, speaking on the return from the SCSA general assembly, in which Kenya needed time to complete a sports complex, said the games would now be held in Nairobi with Chinese aid.

KARACHI: Pakistan and India yesterday took an important decision for sports relations between the countries when they officially submitted a joint bid to host the 1987 cricket World Cup.

John Steele, the former Leicestershire all-rounder, received £33,470 from his benefit year. Steele, aged 37, played for Leicestershire for 13 seasons. He joined Glamorgan in the autumn, not having been offered a new contract by Leicestershire.

## RACKETS

### Boone reigns supreme

By William Stephens

William Boone gave a superlative performance in the Celestion amateur singles championship for the fourth time when he defeated Mark Nicholls by 15-2, 15-9, 15-8 in the final at Queen's Club yesterday.

Nicholls had on Saturday played well to eliminate holder and world singles champion John Prens by 15-3, 15-15, 15-7. Prens is struggling to regain full fitness after his back injury forced him to postpone Boone's challenge for his title. Nicholls used the foul-out service overhead to telling effect and played fine kill shots low and walked over from Crawley, who scratched. Yesterday Nicholls raised his game to compete with Boone playing at his best. For Nicholls it was his first big singles final in senior competition.

On the occasions when Nicholls could command the front of the court, he leant on the ball to kill it before the service line. When 8-1

## CYCLO-CROSS

### Young masters the mud

By John Woodcock

In winning the GLC cyclo-cross championship, Chris Young emerged as a strong contender for the national title in two weeks' time. The Bradford rider defeated fellow Yorkshireman Steve Barnes by 1min 38sec after recovering from a crash on the first of ten laps of a difficult, muddy circuit.

Steve Douce, the 1983 British Open champion, was unable to defend his GLC title following a crash during a race near Ypres. Belgium on Saturday, and the injury will affect his preparation for the national championship. Douce said: "I was lying fourth in the race when a Belgian rode into me from behind and knocked me off. My pedal hit my left calf." Douce went on to finish ninth in the Belgian event, but the calf was too badly swollen for him to ride yesterday.

Barnes has not been riding well since he won the Harfords later-nationals in November, but he showed he is on the way back to











